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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 25 January 1973
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Brezhnev and Pompidou move closer together

Passports have been one of the most lasting inventions of Tsarist Russia. President Pompidou was surely barking up the wrong tree to note, after his talks with General Secretary Brezhnev in Minsk, that is was high time to aim at a Europe without passports.

This one comment by M. Pompidou demonstrates more convincingly than any number of disclosures and suppositions about the course of the Franco-Soviet talks that the two halves of Europe are still poles apart.

The French leader was prudent enough to follow up this ballon d'essai with the remark that he himself would probably not live to see the abolition of passports in Europe.

Mr Brezhnev's views on the abolition of passports are not recorded, yet it is still worthwhile noting that the Minsk summit induced at least one of the two statesmen to give vent to ideas for the more distant future.

Younger men than M. Pompidou will have a long time to wait before travel documents are abolished within Europe but the Minsk summit might at least herald the beginnings of a Europe of compromises.

No one in the West can currently surmise with any hope of accuracy what shape the Kremlin would like Europe to take in the wake of detente. The ithdrawal of US troops and the end of a ect sphere of US influence on the tinent can hardly be enough.

n the final analysis the far more icult problem of cultural, economic man-to-man coexistence from the ntic to the Urals and from the North e to the Mediterranean would remain, in the long run, according to Lenin, ological coexistence is an im- ibility.

he powers that be in Russia view the ger of intellectual subversion in their opean sphere of influence seriously, as nce at the Soviet press demonstrates ost daily. Detailed mention of this ter was made in Minsk and M. mpidou must surely have seen where true limits of detente in Europe at ent lie.

rance's concept of Europe, unlike the Soviet model, has never been hidebound by ideological barriers. Formulated by de Gaulle but in existence long before the Gaullist era, France's Europe acknowledges only one kind of frontier, the frontiers of *patries*, of nation-states. The strength of the French concept is the volume of the response with which it meets in Eastern Europe.

No matter how distant a prospect M. Pompidou may consider the abolition of passports to be, France has not the slightest intention of abandoning national sovereignty in Europe as a whole until such time as a completely new balance of power, interests and ties has evolved on the entire Eurasian land-mass, including relations between Europe and the United States.

Then and then only would France consider that detente had been achieved in Europe and there is no reason not to believe that the Soviet Union would also welcome developments of this kind. The outcome of the Minsk talks would, indeed, indicate that this is the case.

Brezhnev and Pompidou may have deliberated behind closed doors, but despite irreconcilable views on security and freedom in Europe the beginnings of correlation of views are apparent in the final communiqué.

Both men have made concessions, or so at least it would seem. The world will soon see whether appearances are deceptive.

The Soviet Union, for instance, would appear to accord priority to the withdrawal of foreign troops, — Red Army units included — at the Geneva talks on mutual balanced force reduction in Europe.

The spirit of Minsk has also influenced France's stand. The most striking change is that M. Pompidou has gone back slightly on what had previously been outright rejection of the MBFR talks in Geneva.

Following Mr Brezhnev's outline of the Soviet arguments in favour of MBFR talks France is now prepared to review its approach. This does not necessarily mean a change of mind, of course, and M. Pompidou expressly warned against drawing exaggerated conclusions.

France's reluctance to convene a European security conference at the earliest opportunity has certainly been abandoned as a result of the Minsk talks. M. Pompidou would now be prepared to conclude the conference with a meeting of heads of government rather than Foreign Ministers.

The Minsk talks between Leonid Brezhnev and Georges Pompidou may not have been a major step in the direction of detente but their outcome is better than nothing — modest but positive.

Klaus Arnsperger

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 15 January 1973)

IN THIS ISSUE



Slalom win

Christian Neureuther, from Garmisch Partenkirchen, won this year's skiing world cup at Lauberhorn in Switzerland. (Photo: dpa)

Helsinki security talks resumed

Scant interest has so far been shown in the conference on security and cooperation in Europe by the general public, still less in the preparatory talks in Helsinki resumed after the Christmas recess on January 15. Yet the further progress of the talks merits more attention than the beginnings.

It will soon become apparent whether a return to normal and a relaxation of tension in Europe can merely be stabilised at the current level or the conference will prove capable of a change for the better — in the direction of security and cooperation.

Security and cooperation, incidentally, must not be viewed in terms of cart and horse. If they are to come about they must do so concurrently.

In addition, the course of the Helsinki talks will also determine the extent to which multilateral arrangements appear likely to complement bilateral agreements in all European politics.

Will multilateral negotiations lead to multilateral agreements? For the time being and no doubt for some time to come all-European politics will in any case be restricted to the development of relations between East and West.

Progress at Helsinki will also indicate the extent to which negotiations are likely to remain a matter for the multilateral organisations on either side: Nato and the Common Market on the one hand and the Warsaw Pact and Comecon on the other.

The Helsinki talks will also shed light on the attitudes of Eastern and Western Europe towards future integration along lines however vague in the wake of the European conference.

Should the Soviet Union continue to ignore the West's wishes regarding conference organisation and agenda every one of these prospects could prove to have been illusory within a matter of weeks.

This outcome is no longer feared in Western capitals, though. Regardless of developments in Vietnam — unless, that is, something inconceivable happens there — the two sides are expected to pull their socks up.

East and West have so far failed to agree on whether the Helsinki talks are supposed to produce an agenda. Another moot point is whether Moscow will agree to one of the West's most important requests, the inclusion of improvements in private contacts as an item on the agenda.

A further controversial item on the agenda is that of relations between States. Western participants are not alone in feeling that this item is aimed at the Brezhnev Doctrine.

Guarantees of sovereignty are, of course, important for the West but in practice they would not be much use. They will certainly not preclude, let alone prevent, a recurrence of military intervention in allied countries along the lines of Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Experience gained with the other German State, even since the conclusion of initial agreements between Bonn and East Berlin, is sufficient to indicate how unenthusiastic about an extension of frontier traffic, an increase in man-to-man contacts and a greater exchange of news and views the powers that be in communist countries remain.

At the same time one may adduce that

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Two German states prepare for UN membership

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Two German missions with observer status at the United Nations are preparing, as the New Year gets into swing in New York, for full membership of the world organisation.

"In our view we will be placing the emphasis in West German cooperation on objective work in fields in which the United Nations can really accomplish something, such as the Economic Affairs Council, development aid and environmental conservation."

These words of the West German observer, Ambassador Walter Gehlhoff, were echoed by East German observer Ambassador Horst Grunert, who assured all and sundry that the socialist German state was keen on peaceful participation in all UN activities.

Whether Gehlhoff and Grunert will be seated next to one another at the next General Assembly or separated by a few other countries depends on the vagaries of the English alphabet.

Protocol has yet to decide whether the two states' handles will be "Germany – Democratic Republic" and "Germany – Federal Republic" or "Federal Republic of Germany" and "German Democratic Republic".

Both ambassadors are quick to stress that these diplomatic refinements are neither here nor there and that normal contacts will be maintained between the two delegations. The two men ought to meet for the first time any day now.

The East Germans initially pressed for swift admission and would have welcomed a special session of the General Assembly in order as quickly as possible to gain the long-covered status of recognition.

The Federal Republic was by no means as hurried, being more versed in diplomatic affairs than East Berlin. A special session in spring or summer would at best be attended by members' UN ambassadors.

When Foreign Minister Scheel or even Chancellor Brandt travel to New York next autumn for the admission ceremony they will want to address a full house and make contact with a good hundred Foreign Ministers and other prominent diplomats.

This is the only way in which admission to the United Nations can be invested with the importance of a significant international event.

The GDR would seem to have learnt quickly that it may well pay to wait. It seems for the time being satisfied with having achieved official observer status and membership of UN special organisations, the Economic Commission for Europe and the UN body that is to draft the environmental programme.

As yet East Berlin's man in New York is restricted to a radius of thirty miles from the UN building. Until such time as the United States has granted the GDR full diplomatic recognition the remainder of America will be taboo for the GDR observer.

Both German ambassadors to the United Nations stress that they have no intention of bombarding one another with propaganda broadsides. The Federal Republic does not intend to neglect its political duties either. Bonn does not hold with abstentions.

Regardless how the future delegates of the other German state may behave the Federal Republic does not propose to concentrate on political propaganda, which plays such an important role at the UN. Bonn, or so Ambassador Gehlhoff would have us believe, intends to act, not to react.

The Federal Republic feels that intensive cooperation between the countries of Europe would constitute fruitful work within the framework of the United Nations. Of late Europe has declined in importance at the UN, not only in the number of votes it has at its command but also in the political weight it pulls, particularly as it has frequently not been of one mind. Bonn would thus like to promote common European policies.

The Federal Republic mission has prepared thoroughly for its future role as a full member. During the General Assembly it reached agreement with Bonn on every issue and the way in which this country would have cast its vote had it already been a full UN member.

This exercise was important as many of the issues dealt with at the last General Assembly will recur at the next.

The East German delegation is basing its conduct on the policies pursued by the Eastern Bloc. It does not propose to view itself as the representative of one of the two states constituting a single German nation.

It is of the opinion that the GDR is emerging as an independent socialist nation just as, say, Austria is now an independent nation.

The United Nations will welcome the two Germanies with open arms. Once they join it will be a good deal nearer its major target of becoming a genuinely comprehensive community.

The policy of little but often pursued by Chancellor Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel will induce many nations to seek the advice of the West German delegation.

The two newcomers are also welcome for financial reasons. As America plans to cut back its contribution in future the thirteen million dollars or so per annum that Bonn will contribute towards the regular budget will come in more than useful. The GDR will foot two million dollars of the bill.

These sums are merely the tip of the iceberg, though. The Federal Republic already contributes many times this amount towards the cost of individual UN organisations and the various development aid bodies.

In point of fact Bonn comes third on the list of financial contributors towards the UN's work. The United States and the Soviet Union head the list, followed by this country, France and Britain.

In most divisions the one vote of each of the two German states will hardly matter, particularly as one will vote one way and the other more often than not the other. But the majority of UN members hope that the admission of the two German states will mean more than a mere two extra votes.

In view of the cold shoulder that the two superpowers tend to give the world organisation most UN members expect the medium-sized powers to play a greater role. They would like to see new blood and are thinking primarily in terms of the Federal Republic.

George Wronkow

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 January 1973)

Helsinki talks resumed

Continued from page 1

in certain circumstances progr[ess] nonetheless be achieved, assumin[g] is, that the other side can be convi[nced] itself feels that it too stands to b[enefit] from further contacts.

Even in the context of the He[lsinki] preliminaries the Soviet Union ha[s] probably yet to say its final word o[n the] subject.

Frequent reference has been mad[e] leader in *Pravda* but the article wa[s] couched in terms quite so unambi[guous] as quotations in Western newspap[ers] one to believe.

Leader-writer Zhukov referre[d] General Secretary Breznev's speech [of] December 1972 to mark the [50th] anniversary of the proclamation o[f the] USSR.

"We are in favour of extensive co[ntacts] between people of various cou[ntries] meetings between young peopl[e] presentatives of allied trades professions and collective and [...] travel by members of the general [...] Mr Brezhnev had said.

He also of course presu[...] non-intervention in others' affair[s] even when one interprets comm[...] this kind along Soviet lines the [...] article cannot incontrovertibly be [...] to represent a Soviet "niet."

Provided the West remains resol[ute] acceptable compromise could be r[...] for both sides. As during the firs[t] preparatory talks in Helsinki the [...] countries will have to lend a hand.

Hans Go[...]

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 Janu[ary 1973])

Ireland and Britain, David and Goliath, unequal adversaries in centuries past, are now members of the European Common Market. The two countries bring with them into Europe not only British democracy and Ireland's love of freedom, British pragmatism and Irish romanticism, but also their age-old strife currently in progress in Ulster.

Northern Ireland is not the centre of the world

More blood was shed last year than ever before. In 1972 467 people died in skirmishing between the IRA and the British Army, in bomb explosions and unsolved murders. This is a sad record.

Political murder as a consequence of religious fanaticism, an unresolved past and open social conflict will now be a day-to-day occurrence witin the Common Market.

Europe will grow accustomed to the prospect. Britain certainly seems to have resigned itself to the idea. Nothing, in any case, wil change overnight in Ulster.

Can Europe do Northern Ireland any good? Should this be the case economic action must be taken first and foremost. The misery in a number of Northern Irish towns still points an accusing finger at the sky.

As long as the material well-being of these slum areas is not assured they will remain fertile ground for fanaticism and violence.

Northern Ireland needs an even larger injection of capital investment, not only in cut-price factories for foreign firms but also for new housing and above all schools.

One of the tasks facing future European regional policy must surely be to lend a helping hand here. So far the Northern Irish, like the Scots, have an uneasy feeling that they could well be forgotten on the outer edge of Europe.

Capital investment, new houses, new factories and new schools are not everything. The horizons of people in Northern Ireland are hemmed in by the frontiers of their diminutive province. Might not Europe, that is to say Northern Irish membership of the larger community, bring a positive influence to bear?

European horizons, new dimensions and such-like slogans come easily to mind but a glance at the realities of the situation gives just cause for scepticism.

To read Northern Irish newspapers is to come to a shocking conclusion. The people are concerned almost exclusively with the Irish troubles. Even an intelligent woman such as Bernadette Devlin MP is not interested in what goes on at Westminster that is not concerned with the Irish Question.

Social commitment and patriotism are all well and good, one is tempted to say, yet Northern Ireland, a dwarf province that is not even the size of Hamburg in population, is not the hub of world affairs.

Maybe it would be sufficient for parents to tell their children not only about the heroism of their own side and the treachery of the others but also that there are other places in the world than Belfast and Londonderry.

The question of horizons, not to say European horizons, is, in the final analysis, a matter of education.

In the political sector tacit agreement on tactics towards the IRA has been reached between Whitehall and Leinster House. Accusations of cooperation between British and Irish capitalism have been levelled as a result, its alleged aim being to destroy the Republican movement.

The most noteworthy developments in recent months certainly include Dublin's decision to take the plunge and risk conflict with the IRA. The Provisionals' retreats in the Republic are no longer safe.

It must be added, however, [...] new Act rendering a suspect[ed] member liable to imprisonm[ent] affirmation of his membership by [a] Superintendent can hardly be r[...] with legality.

In his Green Book Mr W[hitelaw] Secretary of State for Northern [Ireland] has already made a number of sug[gestions] for improvements in the provin[ce] had the advantage of being [non-com]mittal. By not committing him[self] Whitelaw still has all the options [...] him.

Whatever form future provisi[ons ...] transitional arrangements regard[ing the] position of Catholics and Protest[ants ...] take influential circles in Lond[on ...] already convinced that in the lo[ng ...] there is no alternative to [...] reunification. They are merely no[t ...] so in as many words in order not [...] the Northern Irish Protestants.

Horst Schreitter-Schwarz[enfeld]

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 Janu[ary 1973])

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■ POLITICS

Free Democrats have once more found their feet

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Probably many members of the FDP and many of those who voted for them have not yet fully realised what an opportunity was opened up for the Free Democrats and for Liberalism by the vote on 19 November.

But as Walter Scheel's speech at the Epiphany conference of the FDP in its home state of Baden-Württemberg showed. The FDP leader has fully grasped the potential for his party. At the same time he circumscribed these opportunities with the moderation and subtlety that, experience tells us, will make realisation of this potential most likely.

How startlingly the image of this man has changed since he took over the leadership of the Free Democrats five years ago – at least in the eyes of the man-in-the-street, who for a long time failed to see the hard-headed politician who hid behind an outward image of a jovial Rhinelander.

How amazing the development he has made when compared firstly with his partner Willy Brandt and then with his antagonists Rainer Barzel and Franz Josef Strauss.

And what an amazing transformation there has been in this small party which was so often pronounced moribund, what a change there has been in the Federal Republic, partly thanks to the FDP – and what a change in outside attitudes towards this country.

It was quite understandable that the feeling in FDP circles at the meeting in Stuttgart was that if we are not yet over the hump we are at least out of the woods. And it was understandable that a glance back over the history of the party was made, as confirmation of its new strength and partly as a warning!

The re-elected Chairman of the Baden-Württemberg office of the party, Karl Moersch, gave a reminder that particularly in Stuttgart the liberal party had always been strong when it stuck to the principle that the interests of freedom came first and only then national interests, a principle that had held good for over a hundred years. It was understandable, too, that the FDP got to work on outlining and underlining its future activities.

The national Chairman and Foreign Minister, Herr Walter Scheel, devoted only about one sixth of his speech to foreign affairs. He called upon liberals in the Federal Republic to have the courage of their convictions. But far more he stressed that liberals all over Europe should develop a programme for the continent as a whole and see that the constitution of Europe was formulated more or less according to the liberal spirit.

If liberals did not do so, Scheel said, the process of European unity would pass them by and leave them out in the cold. This point is of far greater topical significance than many of Scheel's audience and many people in Western Europe may have realised.

There is no lack of warning signs of the dangers that can threaten the development of a humane society if bureaucrats in individual countries and the EEC as a whole – multinational concerns and other powerful bodies remain unbridled if they are not faced with a powerful counter-force. Despite this it is to be feared that Walter Scheel's words will not be listened to or will echo away in the distance, at least for some time to come.

As far as domestic policy is concerned things may be different. The claim made by Scheel that the FDP is a popular party already, though in a different way from the SPD and the CDU/CSU, may strike many ears as unbelievable, especially as the FDP tried once before unsuccessfully to become a popular party.

But if the path that the FDP began to tread with the Freiburg Programme of 1972 is followed with courage and imagination many sceptics may be made to sit up and take notice.

Worker participation in management, capital accumulation for the private householder, tax reform and educational policy, but first and foremost the fight for equality of the sexes and an effective reform of § 218 (banning abortion) are the fields in which the FDP can justifiably claim to be a popular party today. Why should it not succeed?

When worker participation crops up today the FDP theories on how this could be brought about are in the foreground. Walter Scheel pointed this out and quite rightly put the rhetorical question: who would have thought it possible four years ago? The FDP could upstage the other parties on these other important matters as well.

Obviously the FDP is placing a lot of reliance on its fifth Cabinet Minister Werner Maihofer. His position and his duties are untrammelled by the burden of a specific branch with its routines and traditions. The designation of his office is new to Germany, though in one form or another this country has had ministers without a portfolio before.

Other countries have been pleased with the work of their ministers without portfolio – the United States, Great Britain and France for instance. If the idea catches on in the Federal Republic it could impress voters to the right and left of the FDP, especially if the two major parties have continued difficulty sorting out their internal troubles before 1976.

With the SPD coming close to an absolute majority the FDP can count on a good reserve of votes from those who would wish to prevent this, especially if the Young Socialists continue to endanger the image and reliability of their party in the eyes of the less confirmed SPD voters, as they have already begun to do.

And while the CDU/CSU continue to struggle to find their footing on the icy slopes of Ostpolitik on which they have come a cropper so often the FDP will be able to get a footing there too.

The Free Democrats must restructure their party, despite their successes. Walter Scheel told them so without beating about the bush in Stuttgart on 6 January.

This will not be easy, but it is not impossible, especially now after the election victory. Not only are older adherents of the FDP finding their way back to the liberals, but younger men are being attracted by the party's unconventional programme, which is not tied to any ideology.

So, in a matter of time the Federal Republic could become a three-party State with an independent liberal party. With which of the two big boys this powerful party would then coalesce is of secondary importance.

For the present Scheel has stated categorically the position of the FDP as a coalition partner – there is no hope of an alliance with the CDU/CSU in the near future, not because the FDP would not want this, but rather because the CDU/CSU is in no position to make such a link-up.

All in all the development of the Free Democrat Party in recent months is an example of how in politics clear ideas and aims, however ineffectual they may seem at first, in the end lead to results that can change the political scene in a country deeply and decisively.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 January 1973)

SPD/FDP link-up is long-term – Flach

The Free Democrats regard their coalition with the Social Democrats as a long-term partner-ship and the only alternative to a right-wing conservative government in Bonn. In an interview FDP General Secretary Karl-Hermann Flach said that although coalitions are only formed for a basic four years the alliance struck up between FDP and SPD in 1969 introduced a new trend that could not be expected to last for only a short while.

Flach said that the "union" parties had formed a national-conservative party of a kind that would exclude an alliance with the FDP for the foreseeable future.

However, if the SPD were to gain the absolute majority at the next general elections in 1976 this would mean the end of the present coalition. He said: "An SPD with the absolute majority would form a government alone. There would be no question of a coalition."

The FDP General Secretary stressed that the FDP's policy in the next four years would be to do all in its power to prevent the Social Democrats winning an absolute majority at the 1976 elections. There would be, he said, a genuine and healthy atmosphere of rivalry between his party and the SPD.

"Time will tell," he added, "whether democratic socialism or socialist liberalism will solve the problems of the future or whether the two can work effectively together in the long term."

CDU spokesman Weiskirch commented that Flach was trying to pass off the CDU/CSU as being too right-wing to form a coalition. But his statements, Weiskirch said, could not hide the fact that the CDU/CSU was the great, progressive centre party and at the last elections on 19 November 45 per cent of the electorate had given the "union" their vote.

This, he said, confirmed that the public realised the CDU/CSU's ability to govern and willingness to carry through reforms.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 27 December 1972)

Ostpolitik was over-riding problem during 1972

According to the people of the Federal Republic and West Berlin the past year had three aspects on the political scene that stood out: the government's Ostpolitik, the problem involved in the fight for restoration of currency stability and the general election of 19 November.

Allensbach Institute for Public Opinion Research states in its report that in 1972 four out of every ten people in this country regarded the Ostpolitik as the most important problem facing the Federal Republic.

Worries about currency stabilisation were quoted by 27 per cent as being of particular gravity. In mid-1972 a June survey showed that rising prices were the greatest concern of people in this country and they held that position till the end of the year.

One problem that could not be foreseen at the beginning of 1972 grew in public awareness as the year progressed – that of premature general elections. By the beginning of November 27 per cent of the people felt they were the biggest challenge facing this country, second only to prices, which were mentioned by 29 per cent.

Defection of members of the governing coalition gave rise to the election a year ahead of schedule. West Germans were very critical of the problem of changing sides in this way. In the spring of 1970 fifty-five per cent of a cross-section of people surveyed disapproved of deserting the party. By June 1972 many of the 1970 don't-knows had taken a harder line and voiced their disapproval of renegades – 62 per cent in all.

It is against this background that we must view the nation's attitude towards the constructive no-confidence call by means of which Rainer Barzel hoped to topple Chancellor Willy Brandt. Last May a minority – 29 per cent – was in favour of this parliamentary clash.

Forty-two per cent said they regretted it had come to such a pass. 29 per cent were undecided. Allensbach surveyors ascertained that the balance of the sexes on the no-confidence vote was very uneven – only 22 per cent of women welcomed it, but 38 per cent of men questioned were in favour.

At this time a few warning strikes were called to warn the Bundestag of the consequences of toppling the government. A slight majority of people in this country – 43 per cent – said last May that it was the right of workers to express their opinions by means of warning strikes in this way.

Thirty-nine per cent felt that the decision whether the government should stand or fall was one to be taken by parliament alone. Men and women (45 and forty per cent respectively) agreed workers had the right to strike over this issue.

But the overriding topic of 1972 politics, according to the people, was the government's Ostpolitik. In the spring it seemed to have been endangered when extracts from the secret negotiations with Moscow were leaked.

The government seemed badly hit by these revelations, but a relative majority of the people (47 per cent) were, according to Allensbach of the opinion that it was a good thing that light had been shed on these documents, since "it is important to know what is going on behind the scenes at such vital discussions". This view was held by a greater number of men (fifty per cent) than women (44 per cent). It was only among dedicated SPD followers that the leaks were disapproved of. 49 per cent of them said that it was not important to know details of the discussions – the final treaty was what counted.

When the vote on the East Bloc treaties was held in the Bundestag CDU/CSU delegates abstained en bloc. It was only among those members of the public who adhere to the CDU/CSU that this tactical manoeuvre was applauded. 44 per cent of them said they thought abstention was the right line to take. 35 per cent disagreed with this move. A relative majority (45 per cent) of the population as a whole was not in favour of abstention on such an important matter. Among men this attitude found an absolute majority of 53 per cent, while the 38 per cent of women who took this line also formed a simple majority.

In the end the treaties were made law – and in June it was ascertained that this was approved by a majority of 62 per cent of the population. Among SPD adherents the popularity of this move was particularly high – 90 per cent. Seventy per cent of FDP supporters were for the treaties. It was even-steven in the CDU/CSU with 39 per cent in favour and 39 per cent against the Moscow and Warsaw Treaties.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 January 1973)

■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

No conflict with Rome, Cardinal Döpfner says at synod

DIE WELT

Though they did not cover everything on the agenda, bishops at the third plenary session of the Federal Republic synod in Würzburg were able to return home knowing they had streamlined their future working programme.

The synod produced few concrete results. The only resolution passed was a recommendation that laymen too should be allowed to give sermons during church services.

Cardinal Julius Döpfner spoke to the press after the synod was over, stressing that he would have to consult Rome about this recommendation. He claimed that the differences of opinion between bishops in this country and the Vatican authorities had been exaggerated. "There is no conflict with Rome," he stated categorically.

Motions on confirmation, foreign workers and the organisation of ecclesiastical courts were also accepted on their first reading. The resolution on Church orders was also discussed on the final day.

The ecumenical motion, proposing cooperation with non-Catholic Churches, could not be conclusively discussed because of the pressure of time but it will be submitted again at the next plenary session in November 1973.

A Protestant bishop, Hansheinrich Harms of Oldenburg, spoke for the first time at this Catholic synod. Bishop Harms also spoke at the ecumenical service held during the synod.

During discussions on the ecumenical motion, Bishop Harms called for the retention of a basic theological section, despite the fact that this is highly disputed. But it should be retained for the sake of clarity, he claimed. Experience has shown that concentrating on practice and ignoring the theological basis only condemns the ecumenical movement to failure.

The motion on foreign workers was recognised as a valuable contribution as it demands greater help, better care and fairer treatment from both the State and the Church itself.

The debate on streamlining work overran the time allotted it on the agenda but the synod eventually decided to discuss only fifteen subjects at its next session.

Among the subjects omitted is the journalism debate as the synod did not feel qualified to pass judgment in this sector. It will only be during the course of further work that the synod will decide what subjects are to be given thorough treatment at the next plenary session. Cardinal Döpfner said as head of the synod that a cautious optimism was justified.

The synod plans to reduce the number of its verbal appeals. Instead, it will provide practical aid. The most interesting subjects to be discussed are baptism, repentance, confirmation, ecumenical services and communion and "marriage lived in the Christian spirit". Help for the divorced will also feature in discussions.

Special motions will also be submitted on the subjects of religious instruction, services for the young and social issues such as "development and peace", "missionary work" and "the Church and the working classes".

Bernd Nellessen

(Die Welt, 8 January 1973)

Protestant proportion of population declines

Protestants now only form 49 per cent of the total population of the Federal Republic, according to figures released by the Federal Statistics Bureau. In 1961 they still made up 52 per cent of the population.

The proportion of Catholics has increased from 44.1 to 44.6 per cent. They now total 27.06 million compared to the Protestants' 29.696 million, due in part to the largely Catholic foreign workers.

Membership of the independent Evangelical Churches tripled between 1961 and 1970 and their followers now make up two per cent of the population.

The most spectacular rise has been registered in the number of people belonging to non-Christian religious communities. Membership has increased sixfold to reach 820,000.

(Neue Frankfurter Presse, 8 January 1973)

Priest warning

Karl Immer, head of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, has warned clergy not to join the extremist Communist or National Democrat parties.

He told the 21st synod of the Rhine Church in Bonn that commitment to the ideals of these parties were absolutely incompatible with the duties of the clergy.

(Die Welt, 9 January 1973)

EKD synod calls for more developm[ent] aid

Resolutions on development aid and the situation in South Afr[ica] Vietnam marked the end of the [...] synod of the Evangelical Church [...] in Bremen on 6 January.

The synod called on the governm[ent to] increase the money spent on develop[ment] aid to the generally proposed 0.7 per [cent] of the gross national product.

In its resolution on the situatio[n in] Southern Africa the Evangelical sy[nod] warned against the continuation of ra[cial] discrimination towards the black [and] coloured population.

In its resolution on the situation [in] Vietnam the synod called on all [those] responsible to forgo the attempt to [gain] one-sided advantage at the [...] negotiations by breaking off talk[s and] once again escalating the war.

Now that the final session of the [...] Evangelical synod is over, and esp[ecially] as its term of office has ended it [is] enough to forecast that no "basic [...] for the Evangelical Church" w[ill be] produced this year.

The synod agreed on a final d[raft in] Bremen but there is little prospe[ct of it] being passed before the end of the y[ear as] the member Churches have to pas[s] judgment on it by the end of Nov[ember].

The fifth synod, which will pre[sumably] meet next May in Coburg, will di[scuss a] motion that, in the words of Dr [...] Raiser, is on the whole and in many details the result of compromise.

In this draft the Evangelical Chu[rch has] drawn the logical conclusions fr[om the] administrative division of the Chu[rch into] Eastern and Western halves. Faced [with the] choice of a Church covering the F[ederal] Republic only or a loose associ[ation of] Churches in both the Federal Re[public]

Continued on page 5

Fewer ordinations reflect crisis in the Catholic Church

The strength of the Catholic Church in various areas, and at various times, can be gauged by the number of persons who decide to become priests. One of the most obvious symptoms for the crisis affecting the Church today is the drop in the number of people willing to serve the Church in this way.

The decreasing proportion of clergy in the total population also poses problems for the Church. Priesthood is one of the main pillars of the traditional Catholic Church.

Many controversial topics within the Church can be attributed directly or indirectly to the question of priesthood, though this subject was still treated as subsidiary at the Second Vatican Council.

A flood of literature has appeared on, for instance, celibacy as one of the alleged causes of the priest shortage but no accurate surveys have been published about the actual state of affairs.

The last complete survey of admissions to the priesthood dates from 1971. It was compiled for the episcopal synod which discussed the whole question of the priesthood that year in Rome.

This survey reveals that 777 young men wanted to become priests in the 22 bishoprics in the Federal Republic in 1962. By 1971 this figure had dropped to 372. The figure in the German Democratic Republic fell from 52 to 38.

The drop in the Munich-Freising archdiocese was particularly striking. There were 48 new admissions to the priesthood in 1962, still 22 applicants eight years later and only six in 1971.

The total number of ordinations in all dioceses sank from 395 in 1966 to 270 in 1971. The Munich-Freising figures dropped from the 1966 total of 27 to fifteen in 1970 and only eight in 1971.

The number of ordinations in the diocese of Trier dropped from 34 to 10 between 1966 and 1971 and in the diocese of Passau they dropped from eleven to three over the same period.

The total number of secular priests (not including members of an order, that is) amounted to 16,548 in 1966 (the figures for Munich-Freising are not included). There will be an estimated 15,066 in 1975, including the Munich-Freising archdiocese.

When considering these figures, it must be remembered that, in view of the growth in population, even a constant number of priests would lead to a worsening in the priest-parishioner ratio.

Taking account of the priests leaving active service for reasons of retirement, death or resignation (estimated at over ten per cent in some age groups) and comparing their numbers with the number of new priests, there was already a deficit of 127 in 1966. This increased to 378 by 1970 and it reached an estimated 408 in 1971. It is feared in the Limburg diocese that some eight to ten posts will remain vacant every year as a result.

The number of new candidates to th priesthood dropped by almost a third between 1968 and 1970. A similar trend can be observed in the German Democratic Republic.

But only one third of the candidates eventually become ordained, the remainder pulling out during the course of their study. The reasons for this have not been thoroughly examined.

A survey by lay theologists at Münster University reveals that many candidates to the priesthood object to celibacy and the restrictions imposed on their personal development, they suffer from the discrepancy between the ideal and the reality of a priest's calling and are conscious of the insecurity of the priesthood.

Dr Seifer, the Hamburg sociologist, told a Catholic Academy congress in Munich that the main causes for the drop in the number of priests were industrialisation, better career prospects (especially where the children of poor families in rural areas are concerned), the reluctance to enter any profession where authority plays a big role and, finally, celibacy.

Representative surveys on the type of young people who enter the priesthood are not available. It is often claimed that people do not become priests for any positive reason but because they do not feel equal to the everyday rat race and relations with the opposite sex and seek protection in a tightly-knit male organisation that guarantees their existence.

But the heads of the priests' seminaries do not agree with this point of view. If the newly admitted candidates to the priesthood are compared with those in the initial post-war period, it is true that there is now a shortage of those with great talent.

But it is not a negative selection of young men as far as talent or personality as a whole is concerned, officials point out. Many of them are of strong character. The number of those who might not be equal to future conflicts is no higher than in the past.

The seminary heads claim that many of their theology students have not [...] to enter the priesthood for re[asons of] religious conviction but because t[hey are] looking for faith. Students so[metimes] face a crisis of faith during their [studies] and often fail to patch it up befo[re their] studies end.

Many students can only [...] themselves partially with the Chu[rch] forms of Church life and official [...] doctrine. A new style of leader[ship is] demanded to give them a greater s[...].

The discrepancy between the [...] exaggerated idealistic expectation[s and the] experience of concrete Church p[ractice] sometimes leads to disappointme[nt ...] special Church privileges are [...] uncritically and are sometimes [...] demanded.

The seminary heads also obs[erve a] sense of uncertainty among their s[tudents] about the priest's role and how he [should] carry it out in a society that did no[t seem] to expect it. The feeling of insec[urity in] faith, career prospects and the [...] itself make many students fe[ar the] loneliness of a celibate life.

Surveys at the Jesuit unive[rsity in] Frankfurt and observations [else]where reveal that the youngest [students] are the least negatively di[sposed to] authority and tradition. They [...] accept meditation and liturgy [...] their studies in the light of the[ir] career and future life and [...] pragmatic view of celibacy. O[...] aspect is their social motivation.

No representative survey is [...] the social background of ca[ndidates for] the priesthood. Seifer claims [...] still being recruited to a large [...] farming and working-class [...] smaller communities.

Kn[...]

(Frankfurter Allge[meine Zeitung] für Deutschland, 6 [...])

■ LABOUR AFFAIRS

Female workers still have to face discrimination

This country's Trade Union Confederation (DGB) proclaimed 1972 as the Year of the Woman Worker – but men once again stood at the focal point. Women trade union officials adopted what was obviously the right policy from the tactical point of view and avoided any associations with the women's liberation movement by stressing the fact that they looked upon men as their colleagues.

Few courses or conferences passed without women trade unionists hastening to point out their colleagues' increased awareness of the problems concerned with the discrimination of female labour and speaking of the long-awaited breakthrough.

The hopes and confidence they placed in their male colleagues sometimes assumed grotesque forms. For instance, Maria Weber, deputy head of the DGB, found herself unable to make any concrete demands at a meeting held to discuss the disastrous underrepresentation of women on the higher trade union committees and instead appealed to the men to allow female workers to have their say as well.

Women were expected to possess agression and elan in what, after all, was their year. But these commodities were in short supply. One reason is the general inequality of opportunity in our society which hinders the necessary awareness for logical action.

But it must also be stated in all respect that the blame is shared by those women trade unionists who have worked their way up the ladder within the trade unions and on works councils but all too hastily surrendered to the ideology of "overall responsibility".

The demands they had always made and the causes to which they had committed themselves were sacrificed to a greater and greater extent to the requirements within the concern.

But this male-dominated society has little reason to look on working women condescendingly and complacently. Recent statistics reveal that the ten million working women make up some 35 per cent of the total working population of 28 million.

Many concerns, mainly those in the textiles and service industry sectors, employ female labour almost exclusively and the economic planners' growth forecasts claim that the proportion of women in the economic life of the country will continue to rise.

The source which is to be tapped to a still greater extent in future to achieve this rise is the potential offered by married women, a group that has doubtlessly been subject to the most far-reaching changes in past years.

The proportion of female workers has risen sevenfold since the turn of the century. With the exception of the last few years, this was not so much the result of a normal process of integration as the outcome of two world wars and their economic consequences.

It is only now, in this calm and flourishing economic era, that long-overdue demands have attained at least formal acceptance in the manifestos issued in commemoration of the Year of the Woman Worker.

Fair wages must be given the highest priority as surveys have shown that the overwhelming majority of women go out to work as they need the money.

Skilled women workers suffer the greatest discrimination with wages 28 per cent lower than those of their male colleagues. Trained women workers earn one quarter less and even unskilled male labourers earn more than one Mark more an hour than unskilled women.

Many large concerns have tried to make the situation appear better by introducing more differentials in their wage systems. Officially, no distinctions are made between the sexes. But, probing deeper, you will find that the newly-formed lower wage groups consist almost entirely of women, cementing the two-class system.

Women pay the State ten milliard Marks a year in income tax and many of their demands are concerned logically enough with the social sector, especially with nurseries, crèches, schools and family planning.

Manufacturers strongly resist women's wishes for more opportunities of part-time work – which would solve the main problems of most female workers – as they fear a cut in productivity due to the lower number of hours worked and believe that additional social contributions would represent a serious threat to the economic viability of their firms.

A decisive step towards equality of opportunity will have been taken when young schoolgirls are no longer forced to attend lessons in traditional domestic science but are allowed the same choice as boys. But there still seems to be a long way to go before this is accomplished.

Heiner Müller

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 January 1973)

Continued from page 4

and the German Democratic Republic, it has decided to follow the course that will lead to a deepening of the community.

Where development aid policy is concerned, the Evangelical Church plans to end its previous practice of backing individual projects. Instead, the Church's representatives abroad will be given full powers to finance schemes in the area they cover. The Church Development Aid Policy Committee established in 1970 will be streamlined for this purpose.

A synod conference on the "effects of development aid policy on domestic policy" is planned to achieve greater understanding among parishioners for this sector of the Church's duties.

Claus Höcker

(Nordwest Zeitung, 8 January 1973)

Unemployment

Unemployment need not be feared in 1973, the Federal Labour Bureau claims. A spokesman for the agency stated that if forecasts of steady demand leading to lively trade were correct the average monthly unemployment rate would not exceed two hundred thousand.

Demand has increased on a flexible labour market. The number of employed will increase slightly, leading to a drop in the registered number of unemployed, if the Bureau's forecasts prove right.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 January 1973)

Metalworkers 8½% pay raise will set a precedent

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Metalworkers have been granted an eight and a half per cent rise, setting the yardstick for further wage negotiations, including those in the public service sector.

The breakthrough was achieved in North Rhine-Westphalia where a strike threat was averted when the negotiators reached a compromise eight and a half per cent or, as it is to run for thirteen months, exactly 7.9 per cent.

The pay deals for metalworkers in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony amounted to a eight and a half per cent wage rise over twelve months. Workers here gained more than their colleagues in North Rhine-Westphalia but they were still awarded considerably less than the eleven and twelve per cent they demanded.

In the steel industry particularly, as well as in many other sections of the metal-processing industry, this pay deal appears to promise a better future and should give concerns higher profits than in the current year.

Time will tell whether this eight and a half per cent award is compatible with the aim of stability or not. The steel industry at least plans to increase its list prices as soon as the market situation permits.

But this is only linked to the wage negotiations to a limited extent. As the trade unions are also well aware of the fact, nobody can blame them for not wanting to know anything about a "stability pact".

The eight and a half per cent award more than outweighs the cut in purchasing power in 1972. In terms of real wages, it amounts to a genuine increase of one and a half per cent. But it actually works out higher as overtime will increase and it is largely these earnings that determine the amount of freely-disposable income.

This is another factor that will have to be considered when discussing stability, particularly when the legislature turns to this subject at the end of February to examine whether a tax levy is required to absorb purchasing power and check the price spiral.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 January 1973)

State offers housewives grants for career training

Word has gradually spread that housewives wishing to return to [th]e working world will be rewarded for [thi]s by the State in the form of a cash [gra]nt. The Labour Promotion legislation [ha]s helped thousands of women – and [m]en – to obtain better career [op]portunities since it took effect in 1969. But this generosity sometimes went too [far], at least in the opinion of the [law]makers, and the offending clauses [hav]e been amended. From 1 January [19]73 persons desiring a State grant must [hav]e been in employment for at least two [yea]rs. Otherwise they will be forced to [pay] back any money they receive.

[T]his amendment is meant to hit women [wh]o thought learning was better than [wor]king and asked the State to pay for a [train]ing or re-training course without ever [inte]nding to go out to work afterwards. [H]err Gayer, head of the Bonn labour [exch]ange, claims that the new amend[men]t prevents abuses of this type though [at t]he same time concedes that the [num]ber of women who attended training [cours]es without planning to work [after]wards never exceeded certain limits. [Th]irty thousand persons, including [...] five thousand women, are currently [atte]nding courses of training or re[train]ing under the Labour Promotion [Sche]me. This figure has risen steadily [since] 1969.

[La]bour exchanges usually offer female [work]ers typewriting and stenography courses. These are intended for women who have never learned a profession or do not want to return to their old job.

The courses can be attended during the daytime or as evening classes – the labour exchange will pay the grant in either case. If a housewife with two children and a husband on average earnings attends these courses, she will receive 165 Marks net a week. Social insurance contributions are also paid.

The length of the courses vary. It normally takes 28 weeks to learn typewriting or stenography. Other courses offer women the chance of becoming a kindergarten teacher or an attendant at an old folks' home. The same opportunities are open to women workers who wish to learn a job for the second time.

"But the courses can also be tailor-made to suit the applicant," a spokesman for the North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Bureau states. For example, a 35-year-old woman dental technician would like to start work again after a break of ten years but is unable to find a job off her own bat because of the gap in knowledge this entails.

The local labour exchange can help here by signing a contract with a firm, under which the employer will pay the woman her full salary and have a maximum of fifty per cent refunded by the labour exchange.

The same applies to laboratory assistants and other women who have brought up their children and would now like to resume work. "It applies actually to all professions demanding training or academic education," the spokesman claims.

But the State does not only finance women who have had to interrupt their career as a result of family commitments. Women who want to rise up the ladder will also be given support. A female manual worker can become a master of her trade at the State's expense. Even a woman doctor who wants to attend a course on electronic diagnostics can claim money from the State.

But the Federal Labour Bureau reacts strongly to any overhasty claims on public funds. A number of training centres drastically increased their fees after the law took effect.

As a result of Federal Labour Bureau's administrative council has ruled that grants paid after January 1972 must not exceed a certain limit. Fees have not risen so strongly since.

Hans Peter

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 6 January 1973)

Ten million pensioners

Some 9.8 million persons – or one inhabitant in six – were living off a pension or some form of public or private assistance in April 1971, according to figures issued by the Federal Statistics Bureau.

In a mini-census conducted among a one-per-cent representative sample of the population 14.1 per cent of males and 18 per cent of females claimed that this was their main source of income.

Of the approximately ten million people in this category in April 1971 a total of 7.2 million or 73.2 per cent drew one pension while 2,6 million or 26.8 per cent drew two or more.

One pensioner in three has to maintain another person, for example a wife or child.

The introduction of the voluntary retirement age and the establishment of a minimum pension from 1 January 1973 onwards means that the number of people living off a pension will probably increase in the near future.

(Handelsblatt, 5 January 1973)

■ ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Complete development aid rethink is essential

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Far more people in this world live in poor conditions than in prosperity. Yet their plight still fails to move far too many of the affluent.

Reports of famine and misery are likely to trouble our consciences in the future far more than we would like. Just what is the situation at present in those countries that the prosperous nations of East and West call the Third World?

Despite all our hopes and expectations and all the aid the rich nations have given the two basic requirements for a tolerable life, sufficient food and a roof over one's head, are certainly not guaranteed to all. In Latin America alone there are 100 million people without a home.

Hundreds of millions of people have no regular job to go to. And for weeks we have been hearing alarming reports of poor harvests again and the threat of famine in India, Afghanistan, New Guinea, Kenya and other countries of the Third World.

Quite recently it was thought that India had at last achieved independence from requirements of imported grain. But once again we were wrong. Governments are even trying to cover up for the unpleasant truths of the matter.

We in the prosperous nations build up mountains of unwanted unsaleable provisions and scoff so heartily we have to take slimming diets. At the same time, the United Nations points outs, about one person in three in the world never eats his fill. Even if food is available people in poor countries are usually too poor themselves to be able to buy it.

As far as the 1971 harvest was concerned the amount produced by world agriculture was not up sufficiently to match the two-per-cent increase in world population, an increase that amounted to seventy million people.

Governments and international bodies are everlastingly boasting of their proud record in the field of development aid. But experts burst the bubble of their statistics and the illusions and myths they give rise to. The supposed sacrifices of the rich nations are shown up for what they really are.

These experts have shown how much the rich nations are able to exploit the poor countries thanks to their superior economic position and how they cream off most of the benefits, leaving little to the Third World. Their criticism of development aid projects could be summed up as: antiquated methods of giving aid have failed miserably.

Whenever ideas involving real sacrifices on the part of rich nations are voiced there is always a get-out for the top dogs – especially where suggestions for fairer world trade are concerned. The proportion of international trade enjoyed by developing countries has declined steadily.

In 1953 it was 25 per cent. Ten years later it had dropped to twenty per cent, and today it is less than seventeen. While prices for industrial products spiral market prices for raw materials, which make up 85 per cent of exports from the Third World, have stagnated or dropped. In 1970 alone developing countries suffered losses of more then twenty milliard Marks as a result of this trend.

What is the good of giving aid with one hand if we are going to take it away with the other? Professor Sohn from the Ministry for Economic Cooperation, which handles development aid, said: "Every time the Third World loses one per cent of world exports a third of the development aid offered by industrialised nations is negated."

We still prefer to import expensive, highly-subsidised beet sugar from EEC countries rather than the cheaply produced cane sugar offered by underdeveloped nations.

The rich nations are still not prepared to import the work of craftsmen in wood, leather and steel without a hefty import surcharge if it comes from Third World countries. Developing countries were not given a chance to exhibit at last spring's Interstoff Fair in Frankfurt, even though they had moderately priced textiles for sale.

This attitude will only be swept away when we are prepared to accept Third World countries as equal partners.

Let us consider the massive burdens of debt heaped on developing countries as a result of tough credit conditions in the "naive phase" of the development aid programme. This put the Third World 260 milliard Marks in the red. The day cannot be far off when the whole of development aid contributed by the Western world is gnawed away by the burden of interest and repayment of capital.

If this happens the only way out will be the conversion of loans or writing off bad debts. Otherwise there will be a dangerous explosion and the whole of our credit policies will have to be declared bankrupt.

To a certain extent we can already see part of the necessary rethink on the part of donor countries. For many years it was assumed that economic growth would automatically lead to a fairer distribution of prosperity and greater social equality and justice.

Robert S. McNamara, the President of the World Bank, recently stated unequivocally that this old idea was a fallacy. Brazil is a glowing example – this South American country has received a large amount of aid from the West, but its high level of economic growth has benefitted only a small sector of its population.

Mr McNamara has issued a stern warning of the dangers of this kind of unbalanced economic growth. He has stated that development aid should concentrate on the 1,200 million poorest of the poor. These are the people who have so far been passed by when the helping hand has been proferred by the rich nations. Many of these people have

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Experts forecast booming industry and booming pri[ces]

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

In the next twelve months there w[ill be] a "boom with a marked incre[ase in] prices" in the Federal Rep[ublic] according to the HWWA (World [Eco]nomics Archives), a Hamburg economic research institute.

In its economic report for the new [year] HWWA states that the eco[nomic] depression is over. Usage of indu[strial] capacities is beginning to rise. Simultaneous with this there [is a] noticeable increase in capital invest[ment] and a more marked export drive [is under] way.

Numerous alterations to cu[rrency] parities in recent years have cut b[ack the] price advantage of West German p[roducts] on foreign markets, however, [thus] preventing an immense export [boom] which would have meant an ad[ded] danger to currency stability.

HWWA experts predict a co[ntinued] high rate of increase in pri[ces of] consumer goods of between 5.5 [and ...] per cent, but the increase in net e[arnings] is not likely to be high. There [will be] hefty pay rises, but deductions wi[ll rise] too. The real increase in private co[nsumer] activity in 1973 will be about [... per] cent, say HWWA.

Everything must be done to [curb] excessive demand this year, the [...] state, and say that this will be p[ossible] using the forces of the Ec[onomic] Stabilisation Act. Cutting prices [will] be difficult, expensive and [time-con]suming unless both sides of [industry] adapt themselves to the changes [that have] been wrought by restrictions.

To encourage moderation by e[mployers] and employees, HWWA sugg[ests the] State should make sure that a[...] shown is well rewarded.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 28 Decemb[er 1972])

Economic stability unlikely in 1973

Fireworks exploded over Europe at New Year heralding not just 1973 but an era of hopes and illusions. Now they have burnt out. Many a citizen of the Federal Republic will be turning over his lucky Pfenning this year pensively reflecting that it is not worth so much as it was on 1 January 1972. By the end of 1973 its purchasing power will be less still. The coming year will be expensive for the consumer.

The committee of economic experts, the Five Wise Men, has stated unequivocally in its report that the depreciation in the value of the Mark in 1973 will be between six and 6.5 per cent, somewhat higher than the 5.5 per cent increase in prices in 1972.

Even if there were no further price increases in 1973 the hangover from 1972 would lead to a depreciation of 3.5 per cent in the value of the Mark this year (the hangover is the name given to the percentage figure by which the cost of living index at the end of the year exceeds the annual average).

But that is not the end of it. Experts reckon that the latest round of wage negotiations will push up the price of industrial produce still further.

Service industries will be forced to put up their prices, because the higher rate of wage increases in these industries will be in excess of any increase in productivity.

We should ponder the point made by the Five Wise Men that the "trend towards depreciation in the value of the Mark" is becoming more marked. In the long term the level of prices can only be kept stable if rising prices in one sector are cancelled out by falling prices in another.

Up till now this stabilising role has been played by industrially produced consumer goods which make up a good forty per cent of purchases by the average household – a considerable proportion in fact.

Productivity advances allowed for price cuts which counterbalanced the price increases necessary in less productive sectors such as the service industries. But the stabilising effect of consumer goods industries has been cut back of late by increases in wages and salaries eating away at the benefits of increased productivity rather than these benefits being passed on to the consumer.

According to the experts one exceedingly disturbing factor was that as soon as an industry began to pick up after a period of depression producer prices started to climb, whereas in previous economic cycles the upward climb had led to a period of stable prices, or indeed price cuts.

In the last economic cycle industrial products whose price had risen previously by an average of 1.5 per cent per annum went up in price by 2.9 per cent.

If – as last year – the lack of price stability is aggravated by an extraordinary rise in food prices as a result of bad harvests an increase in the rate of depreciation of the Mark will be the inevitable outcome.

Prices in the Federal Republic are more and more being affected by inflationary tendencies in other EEC countries. All of Europe enters 1973 in the throes of a wave of price rises, the like of which has never been seen before.

According to the most recent OECD report it is quite on the cards that this year will see a new high in the rate of inflation. And the Federal Republic has lost the position it previously held as an oasis of stability.

The rate of price increases in this country last year – 5.7 per cent – puts West Germany almost on a par with France (5.8 per cent) and Italy (also 5.8 per cent). Belgium's 5.3 per cent is slightly slower, while The Netherlands (7.5 %) are badly stricken by inflation.

Europe's new partner Great Britain is afflicted with a high rate of inflation as well, 6.9 per cent.

In this context the following sentence from the report is worthy of no[te] how quickly it is possible to g[et] from the trends of the fifties an[d] to a rate of price increases th[at] have been considered absolutely [...] able a few years ago is shown b[y] the British than the West [German] development, for sterling depre[ciation] nine per cent in 1971 and the 19[72] of six to seven per cent was co[nsidered] something of a return to 'stability'.

The OECD experts also reck[on] despite all stabilisation measures undertaken in the Federal Repu[blic] country will not be able to get [...] that degree of stability which wa[s ...] in the past ten years.

Consumers feel the effects [of ...] developments daily as they dig [into their] purses. They have to pay fo[r] economic policy failures in term[s of] cash.

Still, many of the consumers [...] public opinion poll researche[rs ...] stabilisation would be top of the[ir] priorities are the same people [...] making extravagant wage and [...] claims that are bound to se[nd ...] skyrocketing.

The "bill" for 1972 is a list [of] sixty prices for consumer goo[ds ...] yearly average. Only one is low[er than it] was a year previously. Only [...] remained stable. Well over fifty [...] more expensive by anything be[tween ...] and 32.7 per cent. What will the [bill be] for 1973?

(Frankfurter All[gemeine Zeitung] für Deutschland, 3 [January 1973])

■ AGRICULTURE

Farmers' image as cinderellas is not true

Laments that are heard every year in the "Green Weeks" at the beginning of January have had a damper put on them in good time this year. This is the impression one gets after a closer study of the report by the Five Wise Men when previously unnoticed details come to light.

The committee of economic experts has given quite an important place in its report to the theme of division of income in agriculture. "The legend of the general lagging behind of incomes in agriculture has been scotched by the the Five Wise Men," a spokesman for the Consumer Study Group in Bonn said almost triumphantly.

Indeed the disclosures made by the economic experts and based on spot consumer checks carried out by the Federal Statistics Office in 1969 do clear away a whole series of fixed ideas.

The spot checks showed that, three years ago at any rate, monthly net incomes in agricultural households were on average higher than those in all other private households in the Federal Republic.

Thirty-nine per cent of private households in 1969 had to manage on less than 1,000 Marks a month – while only ten per cent of farming families were under the thousand. Only one in six households enjoyed an income of over 2,000 Marks, but in agriculture the figure was one in three. And in comparison with the self-employed farmers did not do too badly either.

Of course it is wrong to draw too hasty conclusions from spot checks. These figures involve many problems with regard to methods of compilation. The survey was not made with the intention of pinpointing poverty and wealth in the various social sectors in the Federal Republic. It was really more concerned with drawing up a pattern of consumer potential. The Statistics Office say that the figures represent little more than estimates.

But this cannot hide the fact that publication of these figures touched on a basic problem of agricultural policy. Those who would like to sweep these statistics under the carpet are not doing agriculture a good deed.

Even taking into account that these 1969 figures were largely estimates and that details need to be corrected and that the year 1969 was a good vintage for agricultural produce one cannot any longer join in the farmers' laments of lagging behind in income in good faith.

Basically this is nothing new, but it is a new datum in the political discussion.

Quite rightly calculating the disparity between agricultural wages and those in other sectors has taken a back seat. For these arguments, which have often been distorted for political purposes do not give an accurate idea of the degree of prosperity in agriculture.

The disparity formula is only capable of answering the question, 'what would a worker, earning his living solely from farming, earn if he were in a comparable job in industry?' From year to year, however, this question declines in significance.

It should not be suggested that the development of "pure" agricultural incomes is of no interest. As in every sphere of the economy the various risks and opportunities of the profession should be studied closely. In this respect the agriculture report has a specific role to play.

But rural areas and their population tend to live far less than in the past purely on agricultural production.

The problems of agricultural policy-making are, of course, not eliminated by these positive figures in the experts' report. General statistics do not help agriculture to progress either with respect to the disparity formula or consumer spot checks.

It is very easy for averages to look good, though they often hide extremes of prosperity and poverty.

The really decisive questions in rural areas are: where is it possible for agricultural workers to boost their income from other sources and in what areas is a living from the land the only one possible? What farms have prospects and which give rise to the risk of mistaken investments and loss of capital Where can new industries be built up in the country so that rural areas can keep pace with developments in industry in general?

None of these questions can be answered by simplistic formulae. Policies must be made, and they can be outlined at the Green Weeks about to be held in Bonn and Berlin.

Jörg Foshag

(Die Welt, 2 January 1973)

Continued from page 6

an income of less than 400 Marks a year.

There cannot be one panacea for the troubles of the Third World in the near future. At present those in positions of power lack the insight and the will to take the steps required.

But we should at least sweep away all hypocrisy with regard to development aid without delay. We must emphasise the problems of developing countries and not gloss them over. There should be no mistaking the dangerous cleft that is opening up as the rich get rich and the poor get poorer.

Siegfried Kubink

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 January 1973)

Thyssen boss drops bombshell on Ruhrkohle

It could hardly be more of a surprise: the Thyssen Group is trying to break away from Ruhrkohle Aktiengesellschaft, the giant combine of Ruhr mining industries. Hans-Günther Sohl, General Director of August Thyssen Foundries, who was a prime mover behind the big link-up five years ago, expressed his wish to pull his company out in letters to Hans Friderichs and Helmut Schmidt, Bonn's Economic Affairs and Finance Ministers, shortly before Christmas.

The recipients must have rubbed their eyes in disbelief at first. But Sohl was not joking. He has, in fact, touched on a taboo, a creation that was considered the height of wisdom on the part of ministers, mining industrialists and mineworkers' unions.

Hans-Günther Sohl is not a fickle man who changes his mind regularly and casts into the fire today what he praised yesterday. The facts of life must have weighed heavily on him to make him send the two shattering letters to Bonn. For he has thereby indirectly admitted that the hopes he placed in the consortium – no matter what the reasons – have been frustrated.

But when Herr Sohl realised that Ruhrkohl AG, for which he bears the chief responsibility, was not going to achieve all he had expected of it and that Bonn would not be able to help greatly because its difficulty in balancing the budget would mean that it would be unable to keep up with all that was promised in the original contract Sohl drew the consequences.

The interests of this country's steel industry in the merger of the Ruhr pits was greater than that of the other mine owners. Foundries in the Ruhr were not willing – and likewise the other mine owners – to merge their pits into Ruhrkohle AG at a favourable price.

They wanted this new consortium to supply them with coking coal for their blast furnaces at the world market price – the so-called competitive price at which their foreign competitors would be supplied. In other words they wanted to benefit from prices that would be the same as if they imported coal and coke – something which the law in this country prevents them from doing.

This "competitive price" is guaranteed in the Ruhrkohle contract, and in particular in the Foundries Contract which is part of it, for a minimum of twenty years (till 1988). Since the consortium began, however, the difference in price that Ruhrkohle requires to cover its costs (the list price) and the competitive price have been equalled out by public subsidies.

There were soon differences of opinion about the size of this price gap and in April 1971 a court of arbitration had to iron them out. But already quibbles have arisen again. The rules drawn up by the court at that time give the present competitive price as sixteen Marks per ton under the list price which Ruhrkohle needs to cover overheads, but despite this the foundries are claiming that their foreign competitors can get foreign coke for ten Marks less than this price.

Thyssen claim that this puts an extra burden on them, cutting their competitiveness by seventy million Marks per annum, and that no public aid is available to cancel out this disadvantage.

Sohl reckons that with costs rising more rapidly than the benefits of rationalisation in Ruhrkohle the gap between Ruhrkohle list prices and the competitive price will increase to about forty Marks per ton over the next five years.

He is probably right to assume that this difference will not be completely wiped off the slate by government subsidies. On the basis of the 24 million tons that West German foundries consume at present the sum involved would have risen to 960 million Marks by 1978.

Indeed it is hard to imagine that in one year – namely 1978 – the Bonn government would be in any position and be prepared to pay almost one milliard Marks as a subsidy so that the West German steel industry could go on consuming 24 million tons of home-produced coking coal in the year.

Thus Herr Sohl sees no alternative but to approach the American coal market and the coal industries in other outside countries where it is cheaper, and this can only be done if Thyssen quits Ruhrkohle. These outside markets would not be needed to any large extent at first. The beginnings would be small and there would be a build-up in a few major stages until the whole of Thyssen's needs were covered.

This is the background to Sohl's suggestion that Thyssen leaves the Ruhrkohle combine. It may take the form of withdrawing Thyssen's participation in the consortium which is partly State guaranteed complete with interest – or even withdrawal of the mining property Thyssen brought into Ruhrkohle when it was formed.

At any rate Thyssen want to enjoy the right to close down any of the mines they take back. Sohl's suggestion is not likely to meet with unqualified approval from the Bonn or Düsseldorf governments, nor from the miners' union in Bochum. But it is a suggestion that deserves sooner appraisal.

It should not be ignored simply because of the organisational difficulties of extracting Thyssen mines from the consortium. The difficulties arising are certainly not insoluble.

What Herr Sohl has suggested for the Thyssen Group has ramifications that stretch much further. For coking coal is declining in importance in the steel industry. Oil is being used to a far greater extent and coke is mainly only needed for the initial reduction of ores.

Another point is that this coal, being used as part of an industrial process, is not counted as part of our fuel and power supply.

Therefore it would be logical for all former foundry pits to be handed back to the six West German steel concerns, who would then cease to be shareholders in Ruhrkohle. In effect this would split the consortium right down the middle and cut back State involvement in it.

Wilhelm Throm

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 January 1973)

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■ TECHNOLOGY

FRG-Canada to develop icebreaker freighters

SüddeutscheZeitung

The merchant navy is heading towards a breakthrough into polar waters. Eos is the name of the project. Jointly conducted by this country and Canada, it stands for "ice-breaking oil tanker" in the German abbreviation.

AG Weser, the Bremen shipyard, have recently completed the designs of the first large freighters specially developed for regular use in icy Arctic waters.

Units will be costed before the year is out and the Bremen yard will be the first in the world with a scientifically developed bulk cargo freighter for polar waters in its programme.

Vessels have been designed in three size categories, 95,000, 150,000 and 250,000 tons deadweight.

It is not yet certain that the first units manufactured will be oil tankers for Canada's Arctic fields, an undeniably lucrative contract. Canada's latest environmental legislation for the Arctic region places difficulties of its own in the way of tanker shipping.

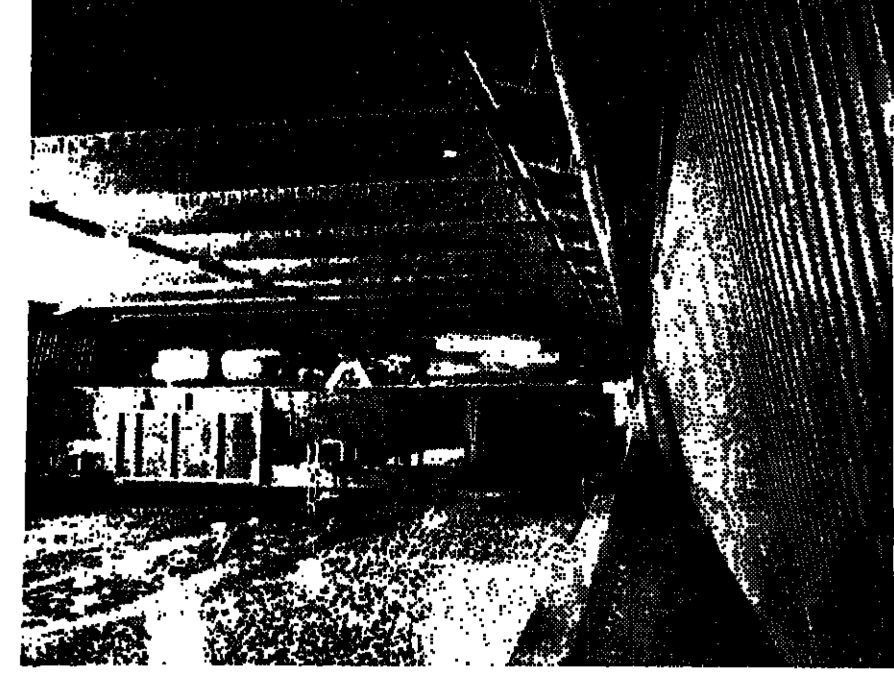
The Bremen design would serve equally well as a bulk cargo freighter for, say, ores and the geological finds in this part of the world make it appear more than likely that large-scale mining will commence in the Canadian Arctic before very long.

Details of the design were disclosed at a press conference held in Hamburg's Shipbuilding Research Institute. The design, journalists were told, necessitated substantial alterations to conventional provisions.

For the hull special steel had to be developed that remained as tough at minus five or minus ten degrees centigrade as, say, at room temperature. The steels to do the job are either low-alloy nickel steels or steels given a special heat treatment.

Tougher materials in general need to be used for vessels of this kind, destined for shipping in the Arctic pack ice. What is more, the entire framework of the hull needs reinforcing with added and rearranged ribs and struts.

With the aid of countless other design features, many of which are based on experience gained in the course of two trips to the oilfields on the northern coast of Alaska by the converted oil tanker *Manhattan*, the first ice-breaking freighters will, the development engineers are convinced, ensure safe shipping even in the Arctic ice.



A four-centimetre sheet of ice can develop overnight in the pool of the new ice tank at the Hamburg Shipbuilding Research Insitute. In this second-largest ice tank in the world the power needed by a model icebreaker to plough through the ice is registered in detail by sensitive instruments and evaluated by computer. The air temperature in the tank is an Arctic minus twenty degrees centigrade. (Photo: Rheinhold & Mahla GmbH)

An Eos expedition has been despatched to test ice conditions in polar waters and any amount of experimental and theoretical work on the properties of ice in this part of the world has been conducted.

It has, for instance, been demonstrated that seawater ice is only twenty per cent as tough as fresh-water ice, the main reason being that brine is crystallised along with the ice and gradually sinks, leaving behind vertical holes or channels.

In order to test the new vessel designed by AG Weser a special ice tank was built at the Shipbuilding Research Institute in Hamburg with the aid of a Research Ministry grant. The tank cost a million Marks and is one of the largest and the most up-to-date of the world's existing seven ice tanks.

Ice is formed in the tank and ship's models can try to plough through it – icebreaking in miniature. The Hamburg tank is only a matter of a few square yards smaller than the US Naval Electronic Laboratory's in San Diego, California.

The tank is thirty metres long, six metres wide and overnight a four-centimetre layer of ice can be formed on the surface of the water in it. The air temperature can be reduced to minus twenty degrees centigrade.

Current trials supervised by engineer Hattendorf are aimed at determining exactly the amount of energy needed in ice-breaking in order to estimate the power the ships' engines will need to develop.

The energy needed at low speeds is a known factor. As long as the vessel is virtually stationary the amount of energy required depends solely on the thickness of the surface layer and the toughness of the ice.

As soon as the ship in question starts to move forwards it not only has to break the ice but also to push it to one side. The energy needed for this is as yet an unknown quantity that is, moreover, extremely difficult to estimate.

The factors that need to be taken into account include ice strength, friction among floes and friction between floes and the side of the ship. All three are in their turn dependent on the temperature of the ice, which grows rougher as the temperature drops.

Extremely cold ice is like sandpaper but the meteorological aspect is of more general importance. As a result of the research currently in progress it is hoped one of these days to forecast ice conditions and temperatures by means of aerial observations and so to work out the speed and timetable of polar freighters in advance.

Harald Steinert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 January 1973)

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European met centre

Probably before the end of January a decision will be reached on the establishment and location of a European medium-range meteorological centre to forecast weather conditions four to ten days in advance.

Nineteen countries are cooperating on the project, which will be an independent international centre employing 120 and to be constructed within the next five years at a cost of seventy million Marks. Annual running costs are estimated at some two and a half million Marks.

By 1980 the economic benefit derived overall from the centre's forecasts will, however, amount to between 1,300 and 1,600 million Marks, it is claimed.

The centre's most important immediate task will be to develop a programme for computer evaluation of the data sent in by national meteorological centres. This country has suggested that the centre be located in the area of Heidelberg, Darmstadt and Worms.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 January 1973)

Supersonic tide gauge installed off Sylt

An extremely accurate super- tide-gauge has been developed b Fahrentholz, the Kiel research firm first device of this kind was rec installed on the seabed off Westerla the coast of the North Sea island of S

The device is the reverse of depth-finder, as it were. It sounds o surface from the seabed rather t sounding out the seabed from the su

The intensely bundled high-freq supersonic waves emitted by a cr oscillator are capable of pro extremely accurate data.

Dr Fahrentholz, a Kiel physicist, be one of the last independent inv in the country. He financed researc development work on this device hi too.

The Kiel inventor tried to const similar device many years ago but n was interested in it as a water-gau inland waterways. Five years ago th tide gauge was developed for constr work on a jetty off the coast of S North Africa. Once the pier completed the supersonic gauge put.

During construction it charted h low tide and swell for constr purposes. It now sounds the alarm were, when the seas are so hea vessels would do better to head out rather than to stay at their berths.

The tidal gauge off We represents a further developm consists of an array of instrum three distances from the coast des chart the shifting sands and changes.

The device located 800 metr registers waves six and a half m height in water only eight metres

What is, perhaps, more to the that this array of equipment such accurate information abo movements that a research designed to investigate sand shi the entire length of the country Sea and Baltic coastline ha launched.

The new gauge has also proved measuring marine ice devel thickness and drift, for all of laborious mechanical measurem necessary for the country's North Baltic ports until its introduction.

The Kiel device records ice co relatively straightforwardly, w important for forecasting for shi all kinds in northern waters where represent a hazard.

The basic idea behind the sup gauge is surprisingly simple. The oscillator and receiver are firmly on the seabed. The time sound t return to the receiver can be co into the height of the waves overh

Signals are cabled to a land bas they are electronically evaluated recorded on rolls of paper. Con expectations even heavy seas do n the gauge by virtue of the air-sw the surface of the water by break

The gauge is nonetheless not accurate, the speed of its sound varying according to the salt con temperature of the water. It indicates relative changes.

An additional device to offs variations on the high seas has be developed in the Kiel laborato speed of sound in water is meas a distance of fifty centime information relayed to the land fed to a computer that ma necessary corrections to the data in from the seabed.

This combination ensures precision.

Harald St

(Die Welt, 2 J

■ TECHNOLOGY

Psychologist analyses speeding and drunken driving

Nordwest-Zeitung

Motorists forfeit much of their freedom. In cybernetical terms they are controllers in an automatic control system along with the vehicle, the road and what goes on it and by it. The motorist has to control his vehicle in such a way that his driving adjusts to the momentary traffic situation as swiftly as possible.

In his control function the man at the wheel cannot, for instance, be compared with a thermostat which switches off the heating as soon as a certain temperature is reached.

The successive traffic conditions ply him with information that continually varies in nature and amount. They way in which he processes it depends not only on his powers of perception but also on his personality structure.

This is frequently the reason for incorrect, that is to say, maladjusted behaviour in traffic.

Freiburg psychologist Werner Richter of the Technical Supervision Association, the independent body responsible, among other things, for conducting two-year compulsory roadworthiness tests on motor vehicles, demonstrated this approach in two contexts at a recent accident research conference held in Baden-Baden.

The examples of adjusted and maladjusted behaviour Richter chose were speeding in fog and driving under the influence of drink.

Adjusted behaviour, he maintained, is always the result of a compromise required by the conflict situation and determined by the target or destination on the one hand and the need to prevent an accident on the other.

A certain readiness to take a risk is always involved. Were paramount importance to be attached to the destination accidents would be bound to occur. Were paramount importance to be attached to road safety no one would ever venture out on to the roads.

If the motorist's conduct is determined primarily by what Richter calls the cognitive yardstick he will either act in anticipation of what might happen or mainly respond to situations as they occur.

Mistakes occur when information is registered incompletely and cursorily and processed unsatisfactorily and superficially.

The emotional factor of the aesthetic norm combined the desire to get to the destination as quickly as possible while at the same time trying to prevent accidents. Mistakes occur on this plane as a rule because additional motives play a part that lead to risk taking both in the reception and in the processing of information.

If, finally, the motorist's main motive is what Richter terms morality, he will obey the provisions of the Law and the conventions of the highway code. Conscious of having obeyed the rules, though, many motorists completely fail to realise that they may have hampered others or increased the risk of an accident.

Motives from all three sectors may play a part in occasioning the behaviour of motorists who speed in fog and poor visibility.

Unused to thinking ahead they rely on the emotional experience that nothing untoward usually happens. What is more, they feel themselves to be in the right because most other people drive too fast in fog too and they are thus in good company, as it were. The letter of the law is neither here nor there and appeals to common sense will not prove too effective either.

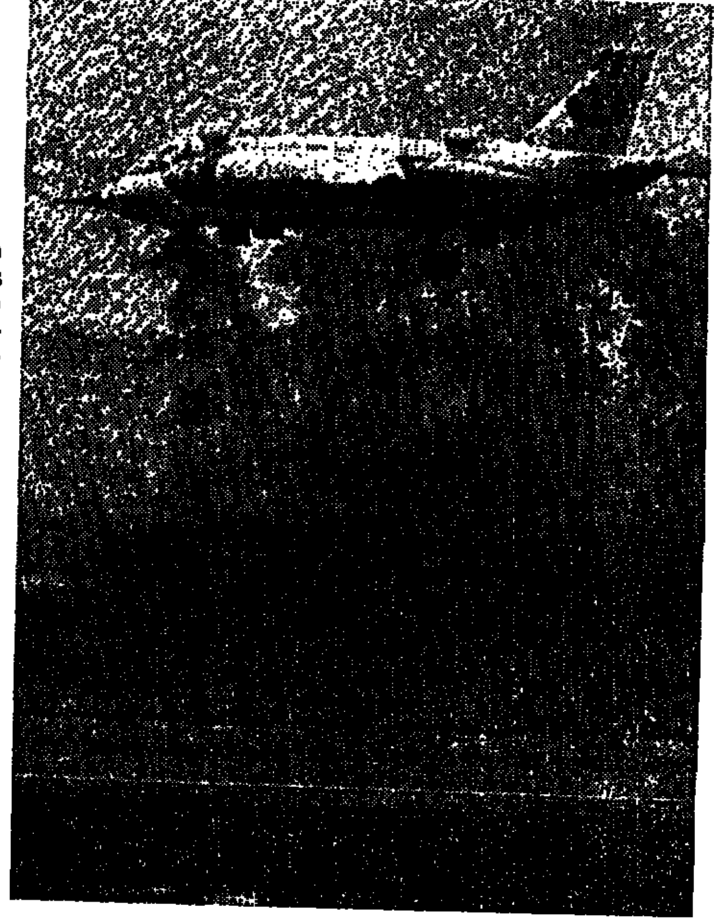
Drivers under the influence of drink are so restricted in their cognitive and rational facilities that emotional and moral assessments gain the upper hand.

Many motorists are convinced that they are in a fit state to drive despite a blood alcohol count of 150 milligrammes. Their error is due to the fact that their ability to think rationally and realise that they are not fit to drive is handicapped by the influence of alcohol.

Even if they were to realise that they are not really in a fit condition to drive this realisation would still have to outweigh considerations of self-esteem in order to dissuade the drunken drivers from taking to the wheel. The legal deterrent might be sufficient to accomplish this feat but unfortunately society as a whole views drunken driving as a pardonable offence and a fatal injury occasioned by negligence as bad luck. What is more, most drunks are not caught in the act, as it were. Once they have got away with it they feel a sense of achievement that may well further reduce such inhibition as they might retain for the next occasion.

Gottfried Hilscher

(Nordwest Zeitung, 4 January 1973)



VAK 191 B taking off

(Photo: VFW-Fokker)

Aero engineers hope Ehmke will give the VAK 191 B project a reprieve

Bremen aero engineers and designers place their hopes in the new Minister of Science and Technology, Horst Ehmke. He is their last hope of subsidies to at least complete flight trials of the VAK 191 B vertical take-off jet now that the Defence Ministry has decided to abandon the project as of the end of 1972.

The project is the last and most advanced of a series that has cost Bonn 1,500 million Marks over the past decade. In the course of countless talks project manager Professor Rolf Riccius and other representatives of VFW-Fokker, the manufacturers, have endeavoured in recent weeks to salvage as much as possible from the venture.

They seemed almost certain of staving off the abandonment of the project for a further three months but this hope was finally and irrevocably nipped in the bud by a high-ranking Defence Ministry official. More is at stake than the fate of the VAK 191 B. Development of this particular model has long been completed. Three prototypes have been undergoing flight trials for the past year. The Defence Ministry has abandoned the project on the ground that vertical take-off jets are not at present a military requirement.

This will in all probability no longer be the case in the early eighties but by then, project engineers fear, other countries will have caught up on the lead this country has established at considerable cost. Bonn would then probably have to buy the know-how abroad.

A number of Bundestag members would like at least to forestall this consequence. In common with the Bremen authorities, who are worried by the prospect of redundancies at VFW-Fokker, they plan to appeal to the Minister to ensure that the know-how that can be expected to result from the completion of flight trials is not jettisoned along with the rest of the project.

Horst Ehmke himself will be on holiday until mid-January.

Six or seven million Marks would be sufficient to enable the Bremen aircraft manufacturers to bring the programme to some sort of a conclusion. VFW-Fokker would be prepared to foot the remainder of the ten-million-Mark bill in anticipation of the benefit to be derived from the technological off-spin from this costly programme.

Were cooperation with Grumman of the United States for the US Navy to come about the programme of flight trials would, however, need to be extended. VFW-Fokker certainly intend to keep the prototypes at the ready with this eventuality in mind.

The three prototypes have been grounded since 12 December because of poor weather, though Trials of the transition from jet-boosted hovering to aerodynamic horizontal flight have been conducted but the VAK has yet to travel at more than 300 knots although it is just capable of breaking the sound barrier.

Klaus Müller

(Die Welt, 30 December 1972)

World's first motor vehicle is 100 years old

The story began in summer 1850 when the first aeronaut made his ascent in a e-flying balloon to mark the ceremonial opening of the new gasworks in ainz, Germany. The eager crowd of ectators included an apprentice by the me of Paul Haenlein.

The son of one of the first steamship ptains on the Rhine, young Paul was nly interested in everything technolol and determined to become an gineer one of these days.

Many years later, one winter's day in cember a century ago, he accomplished feat he had set himself. Paul Haenlein, a Mainz engineer, designed the first icle powered by a combustion engine. This first motorised vehicle was not a erunner of the motor-car, however. first car was built by Karl Benz teen years later. Haenlein's vehicle an airship.

The 52-metre (170-foot) aeroamically-designed craft was semi-rigid. derneath the balloon, which consisted more than three kilometres of gummed ps of pure silk, a criss-cross of tackle d the gondola firmly in place. wo radiators – the first air-and-water radiators – formed the sidewalls of the gondola. The four-blade propeller was powered directly by a four-cylinder engine. The engine was powered by gas from the balloon.

Paul Haenlein's ingenious invention was soon forgotten, though. Progress was too slow for the directors of the company behind this promising project. Regardless of the objections of the inventor the board had safety valves removed in order to boost pressure in the balloon, which promptly burst at the seams as a result.

Despite Haenlein's advice to progress systematically and step by step with further developments static components were jettisoned in order to increase uplift and the radiators were replaced by smaller, insufficient models.

The resulting airship was lighter in weight but was promptly dashed by the wind against the gable of the assembly hall.

Haenlein's life's work had been deliberately destroyed. The inventor of the first motorised airship left the airstrip without saying a word.

Disappointed by the unsatisfactory cooperation with the airship company he parted company with the board even though he was head over heels in debt and took up employment as chief designer in the then major Swiss factory owned by Friedrich von Martini, a friend of student days.

It was in Frauenfeld, Switzerland, that Haenlein went on to develop stationary four-stroke engines and in 1895 he built the first Swiss motor-car.

Aviation remained his first love, however. Haenlein gradually improved on his original design, though only on paper since he never again managed to mobilise sufficient capital for a fresh start.

Haenlein's misfortune was that he was born a generation too soon. He stood no chance of bringing his plans to fruition so philistine were his business associates. He died aged seventy in Mainz, his native city, in 1905.

Gero von Langsdorff

(Die Welt, 30 December 1972)

■ THINGS SEEN

Prince Ludwig's *Jugendstil* treasures exhibited at Darmstadt

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Darmstadt's Hessisches Landesmuseum has for many years concentrated on collecting and researching *Jugendstil* and *art nouveau*. In this respect it is really taking care of an inheritance it received from the Grand Duke Ernst Ludwig.

He is probably one of the most recent European noblemen to patronise the arts. In 1900 he was instrumental in establishing a colony of artists on the Mathildenhöhe, and more importantly he commissioned these artists to decorate his living quarters, thus fostering the development and success of a new style of arts and crafts and a new kind of architecture.

The extant examples of his patronage were to have been put on show in Darmstadt in 1967, but it is only now that Museum Curator Dr Bott has been able to fulfil this wish of Prince Ludwig, who has since died.

Many of the items now on exhibition were on view to the public at the Frankfurt *Jugendstil* exhibition in 1955. However, benefitting from almost twenty years of research into *Jugendstil* and exhibitions of examples of it, we can now view the Prince Ludwig collection through more expert and more critical eyes.

Many of these treasures have never been seen in public before or are little known, and such items as the enchanting little vase by Daum Frères which is only a few centimetres high help to throw Jugendstil into a new light. Another contribution to this new look at *art nouveau* is made by the thirty items on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. All are British in origin and they help to round off this view of international *art nouveau*.

The V & A loans show that even in this period when other centres of artistic creation were inclined to indulge in eccentric inventions Britain was, as in other epochs of art, producing generous, but comparatively plain and utilitarian items with an air of comfort about them.

This does not mean that this collection is devoid of prize items. Among them are the beautiful balanced silver dishes by Charles Robert Aschbee with their red enamelled lids, and a blue-grey stoneware vase by Martin & Brothers of a kind that is well-known in this country but rarely seen here.

There is a small figure delightfully painted in enamels on silver by Ernestine Nils belonging to the precious world of Mackintosh's interior decorating. As far as furnishings are concerned there is the select marquetry work of a wall table and jewellery box by Olbrich and the even more powerfully elegant work of Baillie Scott and Eckmann.

Great emphasis is laid on ceramics at this exhibition. Clément Massier is represented with his outstanding examples of the possibilities offered by lustre décor which has gone out of favour today.

Three ceramic jars of almost exotic fantasy represent the leading *Jugendstil* production centre in Hungary, that of Vilmos Zsolnay.

Hoetger's majolica figure *Der Sieg* and Josef Wackerle's fashionable Nymphenburg lady in her green and white striped dress are two diverse but striking examples of how *Jugendstil* saw a revived interest in ceramic figures. However, the bronze sculptures such as Mucha's female nude on a rock and Larche's bust of a girl seem alien to us today.

Larche is another artist of this period who succeeded when he used sculptures of figures for incorporation into chandeliers. Peter Behrens' table lamp with sculpted figures dating from 1902 tend to remind us in a repulsive manner of the worst exaggerations of form to be found in Ernst Barlach.

It is self evident that there should be a large selection of glasswork. One gets a very comprehensive picture of the scene from Schneckendorf's style. He was the head of the Grand Duke's glass manufacturing factory in Darmstadt in 1907.

Of the numerous pieces by Gallé on exhibition in Darmstadt a tall vase with an etched wistaria pattern and another decorated with a thorn-apple leaf are outstanding, especially on account of their striking cloud-formation decoration on the reverse side.

Among the selected jewellery there is a brooch by Lalique. As the colours of the amethyst change when it is held in different positions to the light we can make out an intertwined knot of lizards carved into it.

The self-evident luxuriousness of St Petersburg is represented by two delightful cigarette cases by Fabergé.

And the great skill with textiles of this period can be seen not only in the silk-embroidered tapestries for the music room at the Grand Duke's Residence, designed by Olbrich and including eleven insets with views of buildings of architectural beauty in the city. There is also decorative work by Butterfield to be seen, and another excellent example is provided by Voysey's double-weave. Alongside this exhibition the Landesmuseum is showing about fifty graphic prints from its own collection. One hardly need add that the two works by Beardsley and the Toulouse-Lautrec standout. Special mention must also be made of

Continued on page 11

Trier hosts German scholars

Between 11 and 15 February Trier will be the venue of the 1973 German Studies Congress which will deal this year with three main topics -- socially-related German teaching, new forms of language and literature tuition for advanced secondary school pupils and interconnected teaching and study projects.

Concentrating on the reform of German teaching at schools and colleges and reflecting upon the mutual dependance of teaching, curriculum and research means that the congress will be greatly involved with questions of practice.

(Die Welt, 20 December 1972)

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Schmettau's *Kopf mit Hand I*

(Photo: ...

Schmettau's original art forms at Berlin

Any artist's work is bound to be fascinating when diverse and apparently disunited influences coalesce and create a new form of expression. In particularly fortunate and rare cases the contradictions brought together make a convinced and convincing unification of opposites.

Joachim Schmettau, a sculptor who was born in 1937, has managed to achieve this complexity in a most striking manner. His sculptures have their origins in the High School of Tradition, coupled with an unconcerned attitude towards Classical motifs.

Die Zigarette im Mund des Ballonmützenträgers may sound like the title of a new Peter Handke play, but it is in fact the title Schmettau gave to one of his early sculptures, dating from 1965.

The Berlin Pels Leusden Gallery is at present staging a retrospective exhibition of Schmettau's work, including 44 sculptures, 31 drawings and a few etchings.

Numerically not a large exhibition normally, but for an artist like Schmettau, for whom each new w... its own value and is not just th... variation of a form already created, eighty or so works are an i... achievement.

Thus the exhibition has ... significance of a major show. Th... can become deeply involved ... numerous rooms in this exhibiti... their multitude of Schmettau cr...

One point that quickly become... that with Schmettau's accurate fe... the limits to which heterog... elements can be included in on... work there are never any misallian...

With Schmettau's work creati... as "Woman Standing with Hair C... and the "Woman's Bust with C... bronze work with a pinny painted... well as the large standing figure ho... watch which keeps accurate ti... never cheap, superficial gags.

The joke comes completely ... within, emerging from the idea ... sculpture. One could not remov... objects – the cigarette, the clock, t... or the curlers – without robbi... work of much of its essence.

Right from the start Schmetta... shown his preference for head and... He has created a complete set of... figures that depend on differently... hands. Many of his studies are co... with various types of head and oth... and hands are brought togethe... confronted with everyday activiti... curlers placed in the hair by ha... cup brought up to the mouth by...

Head and hands are well know... the most expressive parts of th... body. By concentrating on... Schmettau creates an expressiv... is highly concentrated.

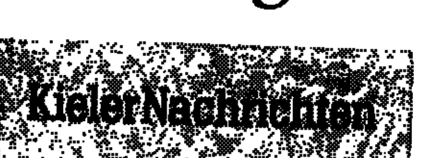
Some of his more recent wo... shown a new trend, with plasti... by the use of other additiona...

He uses fur trimmings, wir... and other materials, but the... fully integrated but rather ... However, this aspect of his wo... too new for us to be able to ... it critically as yet. *Luc...*

(Die Welt, 3 Ja...

■ DRAMA

1972 theatre season was not particularly exciting



Theatres in the German-speaking world provided few headlines in 1972. This may be both regretted and welcomed but it is certainly no indication of an impressive theatrical year.

Last year's scandals have died down. Questions of decision-making, the status of director-generals and the functions of a directorate no longer roused many feelings as they were mainly discussed behind closed doors instead of in public.

But the trend of some theatre people and their teams to provide a programme for their theatres was more strongly pronounced in the last twelve months. This has been the case at Berlin's Schaubühne since Peter Stein took over. The theatre has been given a decidedly Marxist left-wing character.

Such an extreme example as this is only possible in the larger cities where audiences can chose between a number of equally important theatres.

But other theatres under new management could also be seen to have a programme. Peter Palitzsch began quite deliberately with a series of plays on the subject of power and repression and provoked large sections of his audience.

Peter Löffler devoted the greatest part of his first season to developing a new view of Ibsen, thus disassociating himself from his experiment in Zürich in 1969.

At the Burgtheater Gerhard Klingenberg broke with tradition in a series of plays for the young. And at the new Staatstheater in Darmstadt Günther Beelitz propagated a "critically entertaining popular drama".

Concentration on one particular motive does have its good points. Audiences at least know what to expect. Danger only threatens when these leitmotivs become esoteric motives.

Programmes are however only the backbone of the repertoire. And here nobody will be able to deny that 1972 was one of the leanest years for the theatre in a long time, if not since the Second World War.

The playwrights of the early post-war years who contributed to what are now being called the "golden fifties" have dried up. Sartre, Anouilh, Eliot, Fry, Williams, Genet, Frisch, Dürrenmatt, Hildesheimer and the rest have not written a play in years or if they have it has not been a major work.

Even experimental playwrights like Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Peter Handke or Wolfgang Bauer have grown tamer or sterile. Others seem to have disappeared from the face of the Earth.

The drama periodical *Theater Heute* asked critics to select the most important new German-language play premiered in the 1971-72 season. Most votes were awarded to Peter Weiss' *Hölderlin*, a popular though, from the political and intellectual point of view, a rather simplified study of the poet.

The fact that Weiss' *Hölderlin* gained most votes says nothing about the quality of his biased documentary play. It is more an indication of the shortage of any really exciting new plays during the season.

The wave of insecurity that has spread through the theatre in recent years has also frightened off those playwrights who had attracted attention through their fearless commitment.

They have switched to adapting the classics, a fashionable trend these days. This saves the playwright having to invent a story with all the risks this involves but it does offer the attraction of being able to interpret classical plays according to modern modes of thought.

In almost all these Play Shakespeares and Play Beaumarchais the power mechanisms of the feudal system are exposed and the modern-day adaptors try to represent this as typical for the bourgeois, capitalist world.

The best plays in this category were Peter Turrini's *Der tollste Tag* in Darmstadt, an imaginative adaptation of Beaumarchais, Heiner Müller's *Macbeth*, which was produced against the playwright's actual intentions by both Hollmann in Basle and Ledwoch in Karlsruhe, and Edward Bond's philosophical and political *Lear* in Frankfurt.

Ionesco's *Macbett* in Vienna was cynically amusing but remained superficial. Dieter Forte's *Weisse Teufel* in Basle irritated audiences because of its dull exhibition of horror.

Wolfgang Deichsel's *Misanthrope* in Darmstadt represented an item of popular entertainment and it was also spoken in local dialect. Richard Hey produced his version of Voltaire's *Candide* in Ulm as a malicious though original satire.

Where original plays by contemporary playwrights are concerned, the past twelve months confirmed the neo-realistic trend that had already been observed in previous seasons.

The Anglo-Saxons dominated this field with a realism that works subconsciously with psychological elucidations. Harold Pinter's *Old Times* was produced in Hamburg and recent works by Edward Albee and David Storey were staged in Munich and Vienna.

But the highlight of the German-language premieres was also affected by this trend to a new form of realism. In fact, Rolf Hochhuth's *Hebamme*, produced at many theatres simultaneously, went beyond this to form a new-style popular theatre.

Many critics turned up their noses at the elements of farce in Hochhuth's latest play but the popular social criticism and above all the true-to-life and humorous figure of the midwife in the title role attracted large audiences.

A similar combination of entertainment and social criticism was also found in Peter Rühmkorf's *Lombard gibt den Letzten*, staged in Dortmund, and Jan Herchenröder's *Pappkameraden* produced in Lübeck.

Hartmut Lange's *Trotzki in Coyoacan*, staged in Hamburg, also had a realistic basis but possessed more of a history-book character. Like Peter Weiss' play about Trotzky, Lange too tried to propagate the Socialism of Stalin's former rival.

The wave of realism was augmented by the revival of Marieluise Fleisser's socially critical plays, including *Fegefeuer in Ingolstadt*. One of today's most prolific playwrights, Franz Xaver Kroetz looks upon Marieluise Fleisser as his "spiritual mother".

Five of his plays were given their premiere in 1972: *Stallerhof* in Hamburg, *Männersache* in Darmstadt, *Globales Interesse* in Munich, *Oberösterreich* in Heidelberg and *Dolomitenstadt Lienz* in Bochum. They largely fulfilled the playwright's promise to provide a credible new naturalism that would hit home.

But a number of plays produced did not fit into any particular dramatic category as their style was too individual. Thomas Bernhard for example roused tempers with his *Der Ignorant und der Wahnsinnige* in Salzburg – it took the form of a near monologue.

Sennetuntschi by Swiss playwright Hansjörg Schneider was a peculiarly daemonic drama full of depth psychology. With his *Violation Study* in Graz Helmut Eisendle once again mistook the stage for a behavioural science laboratory. Theodor Dentler, finally invited audiences to take part in a 24-hour term of imprisonment!

But both the literary theatre and the theatre of the experimental have fallen behind. It seems as if the best we can expect in future is a new wave of well-constructed popular drama.

Klaus Colberg

(Kieler Nachrichten, 4 January 1973)

Continued from page 10

...etching from Max Klinger's *Rettung Ovidscher Opfer*. However, Klinger's "...ove" series is rather spoilt by the ridiculous subject with the stages: First ...eting, Happiness and Shame!

Other examples of the highly developed graphic art of the *Jugendstil* period are ...otton's humorous wood-cuts for the International Exhibition of 1901, especially *Downpour*, a refined aquatint by ...febre and the large decorative graphics with Carl Thiemann's gigantic coloured woodcuts.

Arianna Giachi

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 January 1973)

Hans Mahnke as Shylock in Peter Zadek's production of *The Merchant of Venice*

(Photo: Roswitha Hecke)

Peter Zadek produces his own *Merchant of Venice*

Sigmund Freud related the casket-choice motif in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* to older myths and the three daughters' test of love in *King Lear*. "Choice here replaces necessity and fate," he wrote. "Man thus overcomes the death which he has recognised in his thought. No stronger triumph of wish fulfilment can be imagined."

This passage sprang to memory when I tried to find the sense behind Peter Zadek's production of *The Merchant of Venice* in Bochum. When still working in Bremen, he had turned *Henry V* into an anti-war revue (as he was later to do in his version of Sean O'Casey's *Silver Tassie*) and in 1967 he and Wilfried Minks took the script of *Measure for Measure* apart and staged his own imaginative version.

But his production of *The Merchant of Venice* appears rather subdued. He seems at first to be presenting total theatre. The Venetian society folk wander around the stage and auditorium greeting each other and joking. Portia and Nerissa also cover these vast distances barefoot and the lighting plays a number of tricks.

But Zadek seems to have lost interest in this line of approach by the time Shylock comes on the scene. Hans Mahnke is shrouded in grey for the part, he appears as a gibbering old fool, half driven by the stubbornness of the elderly, and half driven by their childishness.

His foil is the merchant Antonio, played by Günther Lüders as a personification of the silence which does not appear in the text until Portia looks on as her bridegroom is chosen.

He is master of silence and nuance and seems the right man to defend Shakespeare's words against falsifiers. But could it not all be attributed to the wish to remove the play from the aura that surrounds it in this country as a result of its history between the Shylocks played by Fritz Kortner in 1927 and Ernst Deutsch in 1957?

This suspicion grows stronger when Portia's suitors choose the casket. Freud is strictly adhered to and both necessity and fate are ruled out as possible outcomes. Only the victorious Bassanio (Heinrich Giskes) appears as a legitimate claimant.

He pretends to be the Prince of Morocco, his friend Salerio (Karl-Heinz Visgerau) acts the part of the other candidate, Prince of Aragon in the form of Don Quixote. Free will is manipulated by wishful thinking and ego projection, and really does replace necessity here.

Zadek therefore thinks he has the right to do with Shakespeare what he wishes and impose his own ideas on the original text. Ulrich Wildgruber, in the role of Launcelot the servant, does not need to rack his brains about how to switch to the other side as the Jew's star sinks.

He tells stories in Swabian dialect, sums up the world between Martin Luther and Christopher Columbus, Böblingen and America (badly delivered but brilliantly played) while the Jew's daughter escapes in his jester's clothing.

All the changes in the script and the persistance with which specific demands of the text are avoided doubtlessly further the aim of self-liberation and Zadek himself comments on this in the programme.

But it is justified to ask whether a private and absolutely legitimate procedure that should be completed before the actual performance is not being confused with the performance itself. The auditorium of a theatre is not yet a psychiatrist's couch – even though audiences may revel in the unloading of mental ballast.

Ulrich Schreiber

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 January 1973)

■ EDUCATION

Lessons by computer introduced in Augsburg

Augsburg's "Gymnasium bei St Anna" now has an "electronic classroom". Computer-supported education is being tested for the first time at a high school in the Federal Republic. Pupils sit at a monitor and communicate with a computer, determining the speed and content of the lessons according to their individual learning capacities. By means of a typewriter-style keyboard they can order texts which will then appear on the monitor screen. Classes of various ages are being given this computer-supported education, mainly in mathematics and science. Courses are integrated into normal lessons.

Pupils at the "Gymnasium bei St Anna" in Augsburg are now able to learn from a computer -- the first instance of computer-supported education at a high school in the Federal Republic.

The Central Office for Programmed Education at Bavarian High Schools started the experiment in Augsburg to test the best way of employing teaching systems it has developed. The project is backed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science.

Under this type of education pupils learn directly from the computer. Monitors stand on every desk and pupils are able to communicate with the computer by means of a typewriter-style keyboard.

Pupils can shape their lessons to suit their learning capacities. They ask the computer for the text they desire and determine the speed at which instruction is to proceed.

Cheating is impossible as the computer sets exercises and control questions to ensure that the pupil really is following and understanding the lessons.

Pupils are also to be encouraged to use the computer as an aid in solving a variety of problems and to work independently with the electronic equipment. Scientific experiments can also be simulated in this way.

Pupils use normal language for speaking to the computer. A specially developed computer language called "Lidia" (an abbreviation of "learning in dialogue") enables this simple form of communication.

So far one classroom at the high school in Augsburg has been equipped with seventeen monitors. Pupils of various ages are given computer-supported education that is integrated into normal lessons. Mathematics and science are the main subjects.

Teachers themselves write the teaching programmes for the computer. They also have a better idea of how their material is coming across in computer-supported education than in normal lessons.

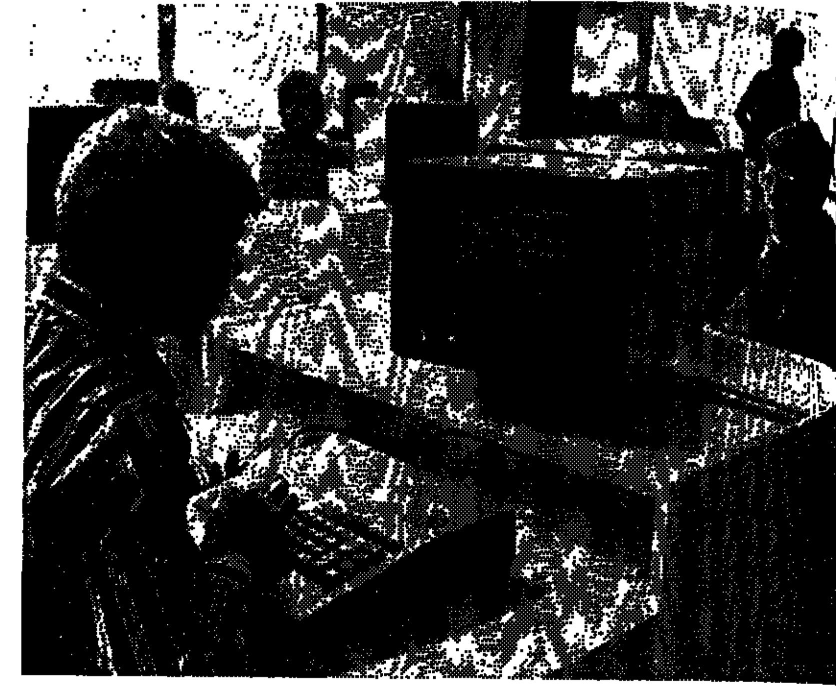
From the regular control questions that every pupil must answer and the independently selected learning rate the teacher knows what parts of the programme have to be modified.

More objective teaching systems can be developed as a result of the information the computer provides the teacher with after analysing its dialogues with pupils. Teachers also have accurate information about a pupil's performance at every stage in operations.

The computer attached to the monitors has been installed in the high school itself. Its size also makes its suitable for carrying out administrative duties at the school, such as compiling timetables, calculating grades and writing reports.

In principle there is no need for every school wanting computer-supported education to possess its own computer. School monitors can also be attached to equipment in a computer centre, even if the distances involved are great.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 30 December 1972)



Augsburg's computer classroom

(Photo: Sh

Student advisers call for more student advice centres

Student advice centres are no longer content with being on the periphery of university life. They believe that one of their main duties is to spotlight those sectors of the further education system that are posing the main problems.

The North Rhine-Westphalia Student Advisory Committee recently met for the second time at Bielefeld University. Student advisers from twelve universities in the Federal state took part in the discussions.

At the end of the conference the working party claimed that advice and treatment should not be divided into two separate entities. It accused the Education Ministers Conference of wishing to reduce the student advice service to no more than an information service.

Student advisers demand a greater expansion in the network of student advice centres as well as an integrated system of advice and treatment. In Cologne for instance students have to go on a four-month waiting-list before a more thorough course of treatment can be begun.

The student advice centres could no longer cope if students cast aside their fears of consulting them and sought their advice. The working party claims that ten to fifteen per cent of the student body need treatment and that two or three times as many need advice.

A number of factors can make a student "ill". They include the accommodation question, the shortage of social amenities and the lack of recreation and contact centres. Student advisers claim that a substancial proportion of residents at student hostels develop a prison-cell mentality.

That is why the working party demands its say in more than the planning of new student advice centres. They want to be consulted on other aspects of university life – including the planning of student hostels.

Raimund Hoghe

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 December 1972)

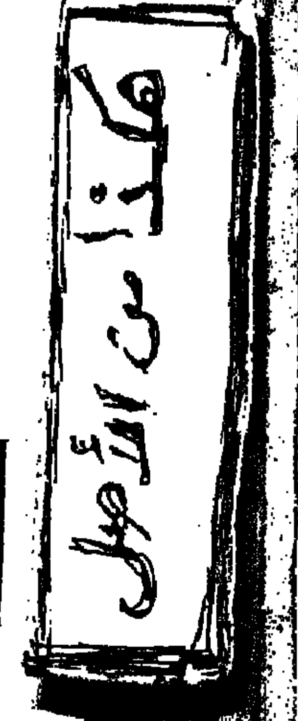
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More and more adul take part in furthe education course

KielerNachrichten

Though their schooldays are far them, many adults are once returning to the classroom - returning willingly. The Federal St Bureau claims that almost twen cent of workers between 20 and undergoing further courses of stud

It is interesting that the people now most likely to flock back classroom are those who could to leave school in the past.

Only 24 per cent of graduates they had done anything for their education in the past five years bu other categories the urge for more decreases along with educational cations.

Only eight per cent of people not got past elementary-school decided to take further cou advance themselves professionall twenty per cent of those w reached the secondary-modern sta ambitious enough to increase chances by making an effort to le

Foreign languages are the most subjects for these people wishing ahead in their job. Political, com and typewriting courses are not so in demand.

English is the leading foreign in the Federal Republic and it is most popular subject in further courses. It is followed by French, and Italian. Portuguese, Japane Russian lag further behind.

A language school with throughout the world estimates th are four hundred different l though most of these are of regional importance.

But the possible confusion still great: As many as 149 of the are each spoken by at least one people. These range from Afrika five million speakers to Zulu million.

Chinese, including dialects, still the list of the world's most languages with 605 million speak followed by English (333 Russian (206 million), Spani million), Hindi (also 192 million in sixth place – German million. French with some eighty native speakers is an also-ran.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 Decem

■ CENTREPIECE

World celebrates 500th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus' birth

Exhibitions are being staged, books published, educational films made and conferences held – the scientific world and an interested general public is celebrating the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of the truly great figures in the history of European civilisation.

Nicolaus Copernicus, born on 19 February 1473, challenged the general belief that the Earth formed the central point of the universe and prompted a revolution in the way Man viewed his position.

UNESCO and the International Council of Scientific Unions have declared 1973 Copernicus Year. On the international level, celebrations will begin with a UNESCO ceremony in Paris on 19 February and end with an international congress in Warsaw and Cracow between 4 and 12 September.

Two thousand scientists will attend the international congress to discuss Copernicus' historical role and his influence on modern astronomy. A number of talks to be given there are already in print under the title *Colloquia Copernicana*. All the events are being coordinated by the International Copernicus Committee headed by Professor Bukowski of Poland.

The name Copernicus will also feature in the Federal Republic this year. This country's Copernicus Committee was founded in 1971 under the presidency of Professor Bernhard Sticker of Hamburg who is also a member of the International Committee.

DIE WELT

Among the Copernicus Committee's members are a number of historical and scientific bodies such as the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, the Max Planck Society, three societies specialising in the history of East and West Prussia, the Deutsches Museum of Munich and Nuremberg's Germanisches Nationalmuseum.

The Committee wishes to bring Copernicus to the public's attention. The climax will be the official Copernicus ceremony in Nuremberg on 19 February. It was in this city that his main work *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* appeared in 1543, the year of his death.

This ceremony will be linked with an exhibition and another will follow at Munich in May. Göttingen State Archives will exhibit documents from the Königsberg State Archives at the City's museum from 18 February to 10 March.

A Copernicus memorial publication and a Copernicus picture book will be issued. There will also be a commemorative postage stamp and a medallion. The Copernicus Committee will pay special attention to the schools.

A Copernicus anthology is planned for Latin classes along with a textbook for science classes. Films and slide series are also planned and an essay and drawing competition will also be arranged.

But the Federal Republic's main academic contribution to the Copernicus Year is taking place beyond the sphere of public relations activities. A Latin and German edition of Copernicus' collected works is in preparation and the venture will surely continue long after the memorial year has been forgotten.

The first attempt to publish his collected works was made during the Second World War to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of his death but only two volumes were finally issued and work did not resume after the end of the war. The material that remained was sent to the Copernicus Research Centre in Munich, a body set up by this country's Research Association.

In 1971 a committee was established to prepare the publication of his collected works. An offer by the Dr H.A. Gerstenberg Verlag to publish the series was accepted and Heribert M. Nobis, the head of the Research Centre, was appointed editor.

Ten volumes are planned. They will not only contain previously unknown works Copernicus wrote on astronomy but will also show that he was far more than an astronomer pure and simple. Copernicus was a true child of the Renaissance and did important work in the field of medicine, philology, economics and administration.

Editing is being conducted in close cooperation with the Copernicus Research Centre incorporated in the Polish Academy of Sciences. This is also an indication that the centuries-long argument about whether Copernicus was a German or a Pole has been accepted as scientifically irrelevant.



(Photo: Staatsbibliothek Berlin)

According to an international agreement his name will be written in future in the standardised form "Nicolaus Copernicus", the way he wrote it himself – and not "Nikolaus Kopernikus", as the Reich Ministry of the Interior decreed on 28 December 1942, or "Nikolaj Kopernik" as he is called in Poland.

Copernicus was born in the West Prussian town of Thorn, which was then under Polish rule. His native language was German and he wrote his works in Latin.

He would have abhorred the arguments about his true nationality which arose in the nineteenth century. We would be doing him the greatest justice by celebrating him as the man he was – a great European.

Ekkehard Böhm

(Die Welt, 3 January 1973)

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■ OUR WORLD

Weather has no influence on suicide rate, scientists maintain

Suicide is usually listed in most countries as tenth in the cause of deaths list. This statement does not reveal that the number of people who for one reason or another end their lives is far greater than in the normal course of events one would suppose. The largest number of suicides are connected with factors involving old age. People decide to end their lives not only at the difficult climacteric period and when they are really elderly but also during the puberty period and in youth.

People with serious illnesses are also suicide risks. Depressions are frequently the cause of suicides – between a third and a half are included in this category – as well as addicts, alcoholics and people who are suffering from emotional pressures.

Living conditions can also be the cause of a person deciding to end his or her life – isolation and being uprooted from familiar surroundings, arrest, hospitalisation, living in a home or a lack of adequate material things in life.

A suicide rate of 17.6 per thousand is a deplorable figure in a society whose lower and middle income groups are more or less affluent.

Dr R. Rakoczy has examined the question of the weather has some influence on the suicide rate. He explored 1,611 cases of suicide registered by the police in Munich between 1965 and 1970. Cases of attempted suicide were not included because they gave an even blacker picture. Experts believe there is a 1 to 3 to 1 to 10 relationship between suicide and attempted suicide.

Before going into the question of what relationship weather conditions have on suicides let us consider a few general observations that Dr Rakoczy's work has revealed.

Of 1,611 suicides 958 were men, 59.5 per cent, and 653 were women, 40.5 per cent. The proportion of men in the figures is greater than women because with the exception of 1970 Munich's population included more men than women. During the period under investigation that population increased by 12.5 per cent but during the same period the number of suicides increased by 48 per cent.

Most of the suicides committed by both men and women were committed on a Monday. This figure could have appeared so great for Monday because suicides committed on a weekend were not discovered until the Monday. Among male suicides Friday was the other peak day for suicides in the week.

A surprising factor in the suicide figures for men and was that it was not November with its dreary, depressing, foggy weather that was the prime month for suicides but blazing June. But in December more women committed suicide than in June, whilst in the days leading up to Christmas the lowest number of male suicides were registered. One reason that could be given for the relatively high number of female suicides in December is that they felt as Christmas approached more isolated and uprooted than ever before.

Suicide figures according to seasons showed that fewer men and women committed suicide in summer, most men chose spring and winter and the women autumn.

Examination of the methods employed to commit suicide produced no surprises. Men chose the tough method of either hanging or shooting and most of the women chose an overdose of tablets or jumped to their death from a high building or bridge or the like.

Dr Ungeheuer and Dr Brezowsky of the Federal Republic weather centre in Bad Tölz, worked out the details for examining if weather conditions had any influence on the incidence of suicide.

The methods devised revolved round biologically favourable and biologically unfavourable weather conditions.

The term biologically favourable implied weather conditions brought about by movements of high pressure, that is good weather. This weather is just suitable for a balanced bodily function.

The unfavourable weather is characterised by conditions introduced by low pressure that disturb the normal bodily functions. Previous surveys have shown that most road accidents, accidents at work and sickness symptoms occurred persistently during the periods of biologically unfavourable weather.

These two main groups were subdivided into six more precise categories of phases of weather which passed through the cycle of weather conditions from high pressure to low pressure with their fronts.

The 1,611 suicides the total of both men and women, examined by Dr Rakoczy were then examined using the methods of weather analysis devised by the men from Bad Tölz. The surprising discovery was that a majority of the suicides occurred during the biologically favourable weather, but the striking factor was that many of the male suicides were committed during periods defined as biologically unfavourable.

It can thus be inferred that the weather has no influence on the incidence of suicide. An important factor is the inner and exterior conflicts a person has to endure. The influence of weather as compared to these conflicts is of little significance and is generally unproven anyway.

There is nothing to prove that the *Föhn* (weather conditions particular to Bavaria in summer) has any direct influence on people who take their own lives. The effects the Föhn has had on health has been generally overestimated by the public at large.

General examinations of suicides indicate that the weather has little influence on the would-be suicide. Research into the cause of suicide shows that there are three clearly definable phases. The first is when a person begins to think along the lines of taking his or her life. The second phase is an evaluation of the constructive and destructive elements of suicide. Almost seventy per cent of suicides then clearly formulate their intention to do away with themselves . . .

In the third, when it actually comes to committing the act most suicides are calm, cool and collected, concentrating on the matter in hand. They avoid contact with the "outer world" and are certainly oblivious of weather conditions prevailing.

These three phases can have varying lengths of duration.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 December 1972)



Health centre for teenagers

A health centre has been opened in Bischofsgrün for young people between the ... 16 and 19. The centre provides treatment for girls and young men suffering ... asthma, bronchitis, circulatory disorders and nervous complaints. (Photo: ...

Bald men

The number of bald men is on the increase and there are indications that baldness is afflicting men at an earlier age than before, according to Professor Hans-Otto Zaun at the university clinic in Homburg.

The Professor believes that soon all men will be bald. He added that a bald head was a sign of extreme masculinity.

Until now there has been no real treatment for baldness. In the main preparations that claim to cause the hair roots to revive or that hair can be prevented from falling out have been in the main useless.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 29 December 1972)

New ways to good health in Stuttgart

A demand that Stuttgart doctors have long been making and that has been in preparation for seven years has at last become a reality. From the beginning of January onwards the "Stuttgart treatment" will be available, which means that after work people will go to the treatment centre for psychotherapeutic exercises, baths, water treatments, slimming courses and group therapy. This is the first time such a treatment has been set up in the Federal Republic.

This out-patients 'cure' has been set up to deal with the problems that beset people suffering from the stress of our civilisation and who are in need of a way back to good health. The course is designed for working people who hover between good and bad health, people who only manage to get away for a cure every two years paid for by their health insurance. People who are in need of cure treatment, urgently in need of it, will be able to take a course of treatment during the normal working day in Stuttgart.

The important feature of this project is that most sickness insurance companies are taking part in the project. Only one has yet to decide for or against the project. Europe's second largest mineral water source, Cannstatter, is also taking part in the project.

It is intended to provide medical and scientific examinations and a physician with spa experience will be in attendance.

Approximately 300,000 Marks have been allocated for the Stuttgart cure. Patients taking part in the cure will not only receive specialist treatment but will be expected to take an active, part themselves in the efforts made to gain better health. Facilities provided include a gymnasium, a bath for exercises and a room for group therapy.

But no patient will be left ent... his won devices. All apparatus is eq... with appropriate measuring dev... medical-technical assistant will b... able for advice working in ... cooperation with the cure doctor... current building plans are compl... staff will be increased.

The Stuttgart cure will deal ... with problems involving ch... difficulties. A prospectus ha... produced to give information ... advantages of the spa waters.

It is hoped to include co... treatment against obesity, rheu... gout and slipped discs.

The greatest advantage of the ... cure is that people who for one ... another, perhaps for psych... reasons, are not prepared to lea... home surroundings and go to ... centre in a strange part of the ... Furthermore patients whilst atte... cure will be able to remain at wo...

Wolfgang-Dietrich ...

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 Janu...

Minister propos... dieting campaig...

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Every citizen of the Federal Re... consumes within a twelve... period 200 kilograms of potato... kilograms of fresh meat, 96 kilog... fresh fruit and 25.9 kilograms of p... according to figures issued by th... and Agriculture Ministry in Bonn.

People take in on average 2,999 ... daily the usual calorie intake of ... workers. Little consideration is g... questions of good health.

Josef Ertl, Agriculture and ... Minister proposes to introduce ... eating campaign. In cooperatio... television stations it is proposed ... tips on how to eat properly, with ... considerations in mind.

According to dieticians each pe... this country needs daily 82.5 g... protein, 140.3 grams of fat, 352 ... of carbohydrates.

A healthy body needs, more ... annually, 65 kilograms of grain pr... 63.3. kilograms of vegetables ... kilograms of sugar and 80.2 kil... meat. (Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 Janua...

■ SPORT

Ice-skating – the most popular TV viewer sport

WELT am SONNTAG

Goethe inveigled the Duchess of Weimar and Herder's wife onto the ... and in conversation with his ...llow-writer Klopstock ice-skating was a frequent topic.

In those days ice-skating was a status symbol for the upper crust. Nowadays it is a controversial sport that is occasionnally the subject of nationwide debate.

Ice-skating has the highest viewer rating of any sport screened on television. Polls have revealed that more than fifty per cent of the viewing public switch on when ice-skating is on TV.

There is ice-skating and ice-skating. Which is better, the art of an Oleg Protopopov, the Spartan display of an Ondrej Nepala or the artistry of Ronny Kauffman?

Opinions differ and the next proof of the pudding will be the European championships, to be held in Cologne in February, in their turn a foretaste of the 1974 world championships, to be held in Munich.

In an age of top-flight competitive sport "faster, higher and further" is a slogan that is gaining increasing currency on the ice-rink, the GDR in particular providing young pioneers.

In 1966 Gaby Seyfert of Chemnitz, who has since retired as the reigning world champion, was the first woman ice-skater to pull off the treble Rittberger, while her fellow-Saxon Jan Hofmann has tried his hand at a quadruple Salchow. Were he to pull off this acrobatic feat it would not only be a world premiere but also the equivalent of the 100 metres sprint in 9.8 seconds.

The powers that be view the forthcoming season with mixed feelings. Some of them see the future in a sceptical light when compared with the past. Kurt Schäfer of Vienna, seven times world champion in the twenties and thirties, is one of the sceptics.

"Soon we will see the salto mortale on ice," he says. "The butterfly represents the first step in this direction. It will then no longer be a matter of artistry, merely of skating. Many people already seem unable to distringuish between an ice-rink and a vaudeville."

Amateurs can, on the other hand, hardly be blamed for thinking in terms of making skating pay. Sooner or later they will end up in ice shows anyway. The borderline between sport and show business has always been as thin as the ice on which they skate.

Statistics show that out of 150 skators who have represented this country at international events since the war 131 have subsequently earned a living or at least made money out of their skating talent.

Even before the war Sonja Henie of Norway, three-time Olympic gold medallist and ten-time world champion, demonstrated how to make a mint of money out of medals. She died in 1970 a millionairess.

Take, for instance, Richard Button of the United States, who after his Olympic victory in 1952 signed a contract guaranteeing him 600,000 Marks for fifty shows.

This country's top money-spinners are Marika Zahn, née Kilius, and Hans-Jürgen Bäumler, world champions in the sixties. The last time they skated together they earned 12,000 Marks a week each.

Coaching a world champion costs good money too, for that matter. Marika Kilius once hinted that her father Hans, a Frankfurt hairdresser, had invested 100,000 Marks in her career on ice.

She spent sixteen years in training, from four to twenty. Children must be prepared for their venture into top-flight skating by seven at the latest, and then the expenditure starts in earnest.

Two pairs of special skates cost 250 Marks each, suitable clothing a further 500 Marks and at least the same amount for a gala costume – and all of this every winter, not to mention the cost of coaching. A twenty-minute lesson on ice costs between ten and 25 Marks.

Well-to-do parents frequently spare no expense to ensure that their offspring make the grade and often overstep the mark. In the United States a father was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment for drilling his three-year-old daughter on the ice until she was quite exhausted.

At the 1956 European championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen the British champion Yvonne Sugden begged her parents to be allowed not to start. But they insisted. Afterwards the doctor discovered that both her knee-bones were cracked.

Some parents really go to town with their ambitions. Not long ago there was a Swiss teenager by the name of Dorette. Her father was a well-to-do banker who aspired to fame for the family.

Dorette was to put the family's name in lights as an ice-skater. She was coached by the most expensive trainers in London and Vienna. Not long before the Swiss championships the most exclusive parties were given in the family home, exclusive even by ice-skating standards.

The adjudicators happened to be at the parties and Dorette happened to win. Was this a coincidence or not? Who can say?

"Of nine adjudicators three have no idea, three deliberately award unfair scores and three are honest," Jacqueline du Bief, the French ex-world champion, writes in her memoirs "Thin Ice."

Anyone who has spent years dealing with behind-the-scenes activities in skating can be excused for feeling at times that the six-day races of professional cyclists are models of sporting probity in comparison with ice-skating championships.

"Ice skating no longer exists," the late Hertha Wächtler of Vienna, the world's most successful post-war coach, noted, adding that art has given way to manipulation.

Wolfgang Uhrig

(Welt am Sonntag, 25 December 1972)



Angelika and her brother Erich Buck from Ravensburg won this year's skating doubles at Krefeld (Photo: dpa)

Advertisers sponsor ski association

In future when this country's skiing stars show off their white teeth against sun-tanned complexions in the direction of the cameras and slalom aces such as Rosi Mittermaier and Pamela Behr demonstrate their make-up they will do ... by countesy of Marbert, the cosmetics manufacturers.

Marbert are the latest addition to the ...zens of firms who have joined forces to ...p skiing in this country to achieve ...cess. Between them they are investing ...ral hundred thousand Marks in winter ...ts.

...he Federal Republic Skiing Association has had no shortage of funds since ... decision to welcome commercial ...nsors. Starting this year 45 firms ...er associated with skiing or with no ...ter sport connections whatsoever are ...lly financing a discipline that has ...ys had difficulty in maintaining the ...nce of amateurism.

...ere must be no repetition in this ...try of the Karl Schranz affair, the ...ciation decided (Schranz of Austria ... banned from taking part in the ...poro Olympics for advertising a ...in make of ski).

...stead a system has been evolved ...eby industrial interests can be ...ciled with the skiers' amateur status ...he advantage of both. Sponsors pay ... allocations into a single pool from ...h the association helps to support its ...ing lights.

...he man behind the idea is 42-year-old ...nz Krecek, who has been of service to skiing in this country in a variety of capacities. He has been coach and fixtures secretary to the association but until recently has worked for a flooring firm for a living.

He is now the most powerful man in the skiing association, negotiating contracts with sponsors, arranging details of advertising and ensuring that skiers retain their amateur status.

His efforts have not gone unrewarded. Krecek now has a new title and is a full-time official of the association as its commercial and industrial manager.

In this capacity he recently paid the Monopolies Commission in West Berlin a visit in order to forestall for the Skiing Association the trouble the Football Association has encountered as a result of its preference for Adidas boots.

"Everything in the garden is lovely as far as we are concerned," Krecek says. "At the Monopolies Commission I was assured that our system of cooperation with industry is first-rate and exemplary."

The difference between the skiers and the footballers is, to all intents and purposes, that the skiers are under contract to 45 firms whereas the footballers have an agreement with one only. Krecek has drummed up a consortium ranging from ski firms to soft drink manufacturers. Anyone interested in ski advertising is in on the act.

Between 1 May and 31 August skiers are entitled to choose between five brands of ski, three of sticks and two of bindings. During this transfer period they are at liberty to decide for themselves on the brand that will be entitled to use their names for advertising purposes during the forthcoming season.

"In this way," Heinz Krecek says, "skiers are assured of a variety of equipment to choose from. The decision is theirs. There is no compulsion."

Even this system has its drawbacks, though. What is to happen if firm X helps to change skier Y's mind with the aid of a handsome cheque?

Nothing of this kind has ever come to his attention, Krecek says. The eventuality has thus yet to happen. Arrangements of this nature are, moreover, not what the association has in mind and run counter to the agreements reached between it and its 25 top-flight skiers.

The skiers are under contract to remain amateurs and the time, place and manner in which they are allowed to engage in advertising activities are specified in detail.

Advertising photos and newspaper ads, for instance, are only allowed on condition that at least five athletes appear on the one picture. Their names must not be mentioned either, unless, that is, the association gives its express approval.

Applications must be made to Heinz Krecek by the skier in question, and firms that would like to join the pool must also apply to him. Their entry fee and annual subscription are also negotiated by Heinz Krecek.

Whatever else one may say, the venture has certainly been a success. The pool of 45 firms includes not only skiing equipment manufacturers but also Dunlop, Ford, BMW, Schiesser underwear, Hohes C orange juice, footwear manufacturers and last but not least Marbert, the cosmetics firm.

Krecek is proud of the epithet "Mini-Neckermann", a reference to the Frankfurt mail order magnate and Olympic show-jumper who heads the Sports Aid Foundation.

He claims to have built up his pool of skiing advertisers one by one, with the result that the Skiing Association is several hundred thousand Marks the richer. Krecek is not prepared to disclose the precise amount. "Otherwise," he says, "the politicians might hit on the idea that the Skiing Association has enough money and end the subsidies we receive from Bonn."

Ulfert Schröder

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 December 1972)